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Inter-Arab Affairs

Summit Concludes, Members Issue Final Comments

'Text' of Final Statement

JN3005141990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1103 GMT 30 May 90

["Text" of final statement issued by the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad on 30 May, read by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: In response to the generous invitation of Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, their majesties, excellencies, and highnesses the kings, presidents, and amirs of the Arab states held an extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad 4-6 Dhi al-Qi'dah 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 28-30 May 1990.

As its major topic the conference discussed threats posed to pan-Arab security and the adoption of the necessary measures toward these threats. At the outset of its meetings, the conference welcomed the establishment of the fraternal Yemeni state on 22 May 1990. Moreover, the conference expressed its full support and backing of the Yemeni Republic, and its sincere congratulations to the great Yemeni people and their sincere leadership. This unity embodies the principles of altruism, sublimity, honesty, and brotherliness. Moreover, it is evidence of the capability and unlimited energies of the Arab individual, to overcome obstructions and difficulties, and a great example which prompts the Arab nation to take further steps forward in order to achieve its legitimate aspirations of comprehensive unity, progress, civilized establishment, and to reaffirm the greatness of its benevolent human message.

The conference assessed the current Arab situation, changes in the international arena, threats posed to pan-Arab security, and the impact of all of these on the Arab nation's present and future, and especially on the Palestinian people's rights and the highest Arab interests, within the framework of a comprehensive, objective, and profound analysis aimed at forging a collective Arab stand towards the aforementioned topics.

The conference welcomed the approach of securing international detente, achieving cooperation among peoples, bringing an end to the arms race, putting an end to destructive wars, and building a foundation for international peace and security on the basis of the balance of mutual interests, equal respect, sovereignty, and independence. Moreover, the conference fully realizes that these changes—in their negative and positive aspects—mandate, more than ever, the Arab nation's dependence on its own capabilities, whether in confronting the direct threats to pan-Arab security or in dealing with the international environment which is being reshaped. Therefore, the Arab nation should maintain a status commensurate with its time-honored history and civilized contribution.

The conference hailed, with great appreciation, the Palestinian Arab people's steadfastness under the unjust Israeli occupation; the valiant Palestinian intifadah's esclation in face of the Israeli authorities's brutal oppression; and the Palestinian people's daily heavy sacrifices in their quest to liberate their occupied homeland and build their independent state on their national soil, with holy Jerusalem as its capital, under the leadership of its sole, legitimate representative, the PLO.

Furthermore, the conference stressed the need to make available all forms of official and popular material and political support which ensures the continuation and developing of the intifadah so that it can attain its noble objectives—liberation, independence, and sovereignty—and to reinforce assistance of the intifadah on the pan-Arab, regional, and international levels.

The conference also discussed the grave dangers resulting from the planned, organized Jewish immigration to Palestine and other occupied Arab territories and what this entails: the violation of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland and Zionism's plans, which aim to deport the Palestinians from their national land, strengthen the Israeli occupation, and widen its range through the processes of intensified settlement, deportation of Palestinian people, seizure of their properties and lands in order to absorb the Jewish immigrants and fulfill the scheme of the so-called Greater Israel, which has been confirmed by Israeli officials' statements and the new maps they have drawn to implement their known expansionist ambitions.

The conference is fully convinced that the immigration of Soviet Jews and others to Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories is a new aggression against the Palestinian people's rights and a serious danger to the Arab nation as well as a gross violation of human rights, the principles of international law, and the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. The conference affirms that this massive and premeditated process represents a dangerous threat to pan-Arab security and that it thus deserves to be tackled in accordance with this perspective and on a collective basis. The conference also believes that all necessary measures must be taken to safeguard the rights of the Palestinian people and pan-Arab security.

While strongly condemning Jewish immigration to Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories, the conference asks the countries directly concerned with immigration in particular and the international community in general to immediately end the Israeli immigration and settlement scheme. Furthermore, the conference calls for guaranteeing the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to repatriation on the basis of UN Resolution No. 194 of 1949. In addition, the conference affirms that the building of Israeli settlements is illegal, that this building must be halted, that the settlements already built must be dismantled, and also that an international mechanism must be found to monitor and detect Israeli settlement activities.

The conference calls on the various states to stop offering any aid or loans to the Israeli Government to facilitate the settling of emigres in Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories. The conference also affirms the need to reassess Arab relations with other states in light of their stand toward Palestinian national rights and Jewish emigration. The conference urges the United Nations to shoulder its responsibilities in accordance with the UN Charter, UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, and international agreements to guarantee that Jewish immigrants are not settled in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including Jerusalem. The conference also urges the United Nations to launch an international monitoring effort to implement this and to issue a UN Security Council resolution to this effect.

The conference analyzed the current Arab situation and reviewed the political efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the region. The conference expressed the conviction that the escalating tension, which gives signs of leading to an explosion, is the result of the continued Israeli occupation of Palestine and other occupied Arab territories, of the continuing denial of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, and also of the continuing policy of aggression, terrorism, and expansion by the Israeli authorities.

In this regard, the conference holds the United States primarily responsible for this situation, in its capacity as the power which provides Israel with military capabilities, financial aid, and political cover. It believes that without these things, Israel could not continue these policies or to defy with such arrogance the will of the international community.

Out of its commitment to the Palestinian peace initiative and Arab summit resolutions, especially those adopted at the 1988 Algiers summit and the 1989 Casablanca summit, the conference affirms that the call for convening an international conference under UN auspices and with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO on an equal footing, is now a pressing and urgent matter. The conference also reiterates the Arab states' commitment to the Palestine question as the crux of the Arab-Zionist conflict and that a just and lasting solution to the plight of the Palestinian people and to the regional crisis lies in restoring the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to repatriation, to self-determination, and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

The conference has also saluted the Palestinian masses' steadfastness alongside their Lebanese brothers in southern Lebanon and their contribution to confronting the air, ground, and naval Israeli attacks against villages and Palestinian camps in the south.

In view of the developments in the East European countries, the conference recommended that Arab relations with these countries be assessed in light of these countries' positions on the Palestine question and on the basis of mutual interests.

The conference expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the Arab-European ministerial meeting, which was held toward the end of last year, and the member states' determination to participate actively in promoting the Arab-European dialogue with a view to bolstering the relations of cooperation and friendship between the two groups.

The conference registers with satisfaction and appreciation the growth of world support for the Palestine people's just cause and the increase in the number of states that recognized the young Palestinian state. The conference expresses its indignation and denouncement of the prejudice, political protection, and big military and economic support for Israel that characterize the U.S. Congress' positions and resolutions, the latest among which were the null resolutions on Jerusalem and the support for and finance of Jewish emigration, which helps settlement in the occupied territories.

The conference underscores the religious and political status of holy Jerusalem and considers the city an integral part of Palestine and capital of its state. It dismisses any change to the city's religious and legal status as a flagrant violation of international conventions and resolutions. The conference also underlines the Islamic Jerusalem Committee's resolution on the convening of the Islamic-Christian conference to protect Islamic and Christian sanctities. The conference condemns the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives resolutions in this respect. The conference affirms that the Arab states will take the necessary political and economic measures against any state that considers Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

And because the Israeli authorities are going far in their terrible crimes against Palestinian citizens, the conference demands that the Palestinian people be protected against the scheme of genocide and transfer. This should be done under international supervision, under the auspices of the United Nations until the Palestinian people exercise their right to self-determination and national independence.

The conference is fully confident that the protection of rights, maintenance of lands, and defense of sanctities can only be achieved through achieving unity of positions and goals, bolstering Arab solidarity, clearing Arab atmosphere, engaging in constant struggle by all means, mobilizing all Arab resources in service of the pan-Arab destiny, and moving actively on all levels and on both regional and international scenes.

On this occasion, our conference registers its full gratitude for all states, organizations, and figures that supported and are still supporting the national and pan-Arab rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. It urges further material and moral support in the interest of world justice and peace and in order to curb Israel's arrogance and inhumane practices.

The conference strongly opposed the U.S. attempts to repeal the UN General Assembly Resolution No. 3379, which considers Zionism a form of racism and racial discrimination, and called for the intensification of efforts to abort those attempts.

The conference paid extreme attention to the threats, the hostile tendentious political and media campaigns, and the scientific and technological ban against Iraq. It discussed the threats these pose to the sovereignty of an Arab League member state and their effects on pan-Arab security.

While affirming its adherence to the Arab League Charter, the Collective Arab Defense Pact, and economic cooperation, the conference strongly condemns these aggressive threats, campaigns, and measures and affirms its effective solidarity with fraternal Iraq. The conference warns against the continuation of these campaigns against its sovereignty and pan-Arab security and warns that there are preparations to facilitate aggression against it.

The conference affirms Iraq's right to take all the appropriate measures to safeguard and protect its national security and provide the requirements for development, including the possession of advanced science and technology and using them for internationally legal purposes.

The conference affirms the right of Iraq and all the Arab states to reply to aggression by all means they deem fit to guarantee their security and sovereignty.

Proceeding from the full understanding of the organic link between national and pan-Arab security, and in appreciation of Jordan's steadfast and firm stand along the longest confrontation lines with the enemy, the conference condemns the settlement policy and Israeli expansionist schemes, including schemes to settle the new Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories. This poses a direct threat to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and therefore, a threat to, and aggression against, the whole Arab nation. The conference affirms its total adherence to defending and protecting national Jordanian security, because it is an indivisible part of the Arab nation's pan-Arab security. Support for and solidarity with Jordan, as well as providing it with its needs for steadfastness, is a pan-Arab duty stemming from the fact that Jordan is a frontline base of the Arab nation protecting its borders, defending it, and helping to avert dangers from it. The conference has decided to provide support for Jordan through bilateral negotiations to enable it to strengthen its steadfastness and bolster its capabilities in various fields. This would thus form the main support for the Palestine cause, the glorious Palestinian intifadah, and for the Palestinian people to remain steadfast in their occupied territory.

The conference condemned U.S. threats to use force against the great Socialist Popular Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. It condemned the U.S. Administration's prolongation of the economic siege against the Jamahiriyah, and demands that it be lifted.

The conference affirmed the great Jamahiriyah's right to possess modern technological means to develop and progress. The conference renewed its solidarity with the Jamahiriyah to confront the U.S. economic siege and threats in conformity with the Arab League Charter, the Collective Arab Defense Pact, and economic cooperation to strengthen international peace and security.

The conference affirmed its effective and fraternal solidarity with Sudan and Somalia against any threats to their national unities—land and people—in order to bolster security and cooperation in the Horn of Africa. While saluting Namibia's independence and African leader Nelson Mandela's freedom, and praising the struggle of the African peoples against racial discrimination and for their liberty and development, the conference affirms the cohesion between our struggle and Arab-African cooperation and warns against the dangers of comprehensive cooperation between the two racist regimes in Tel Aviv and Pretoria, especially in the field of nuclear arms with its dangers to Arab and African security.

The conference called for promoting Arab-African cooperation through strong cooperation between the Arab League secretary general and the Organization of African Unity secretary general, and through negotiations between Arab and African agencies for implementing projects on which agreement has been reached within the framework of the Permanent Committee for Arab-African Cooperation.

The conference reviewed the developments in the situation between Iraq and Iran, the continuing tribulation of the prisoners of war [POW's], and their families' worry despite the cessation of hostilities since the cease-fire was observed on 20 August 1988. The conference noted with extreme satisfaction Iraq's peaceful initiatives, the latest being the message of peace which Mr. Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, sent to the Iranian leadership.

While the conference reaffirms Resolution 182 adopted at the Casablanca summit, it calls for continuing efforts to achieve comprehensive and lasting peace between Iraq and Iran on the basis of Security Council Resolution 598, as it is a comprehensive peace plan; and the agreement reached on 8 August 1988—through UN-sponsored direct negotiations to guarantee Iraq's rights and sovereignty over its territory, particularly its historical right to sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab—as well as on the basis of noninterference in its internal affairs and guaranteeing the security of the Arabian Gulf and the freedom of navigation in its territorial waters.

The conference called for intensifying efforts on all levels to release the POW's of both sides and return them to their homeland immediately in implementation of Security

Council Resolution 598 and the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 because this is an independent issue in terms of its legal and humanitarian nature. The conference calls on the United Nations and all regional and international organizations and bodies—governmental and nongovernmental—and the member states of the Third Geneva Convention to shoulder their responsibilities and take all political and nonpolitical measures to release the Iraq-Iran war prisoners without delay.

Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, delivered a message on behalf of his brothers His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and His Excellency Algerian President Chadli Benjedid to the Arab leaders. Attached to this message is a report prepared by the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee including the three leaders' assessment of the current situation in Lebanon and their recommendations vis-a-vis the steps that should be taken to help in the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement and reinforcing Lebanese legitimacy. In light of this, the conference discussed the various dimensions of the Lebanese crisis and its repercussions on Lebanon and the Arab nation. The conference also reviewed the steps and measures that have been achieved in Lebanon since the signing of the national reconciliation document reached by the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if under the sponsorship of the tripartite committee.

The conference expressed deep regret for the bloody events in Lebanon and its awareness of the suffering of the Lebanese people. The conference affirmed that internecine fighting is not the solution to the Lebanese crisis and will only lead to further complication of the crisis and to its continuation. And this will have a negative effect on the unity of the state, people, and institutions and will hamper the march of salvation, reconciliation, and peace, which the Arab summit is eager to see continue so as to end the tragedy and restore security, stability, and prosperity in Lebanon.

The conference expressed deep regret that obstacles have emerged on the march of peace and reconciliation, which was embarked on with the laying down of the document of national reconciliation. The conference affirmed the continuation of its support for the legitimate Lebanese authorities and its full readiness to exert its utmost to end the Lebanese tragedy.

The conference condemned the continuous aggressions Israel has embarked on against the Lebanese territory. The conference expressed its high appreciation for the steadfastness of the citizens in occupied southern Lebanon who are bravely continuing their resistance of the Israeli occupation and the continuous Zionist aggressions on their territory. Within this framework, the conference called on the international community to work toward the implementation of the Security Council resolutions calling for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Lebanese territory, particularly Resolution 425.

In addition, the conference confirmed the al-Ta'if agreement as the appropriate framework for maintaining the interests of all Lebanese without exception, and that this agreement constitutes the way to extricate Lebanon from the cycle of violence and achieve security and peace.

In this regard, the conference asked the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee to follow up the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement and renewed its continued support for the committee's efforts. The conference also affirmed its readiness to carry out whatever is necessary to achieve peace in Lebanon so as to enable this sisterly country to restore its unity and independence and to impose the Lebanese state's authority and sovereignty over the entire Lebanese territory.

The conference also resolved to call for the establishment of an international fund to assist Lebanon and help it revive its institutions, operate its public facilities, and rebuild its infrastructure, and to assist Lebanon in its reconstruction and help it rejuvenate its economy. The conference called on the international community to contribute to this fund.

The conference understands that the greatest challenge faced by the Arab nation in the last decade of the 20th century is a scientific and cultural one, which it must win in order to ensure a better future and to contribute again to enriching human civilization through international understanding based on tolerance, friendship, and peaceful cooperation. And stemming from man's inalienable right to comprehensive development and to the use of scientific and technological achievements in serving mankind, the conference affirms the Arab nation's inalienable right to development and the use of science and technology in the interest of Arab citizens and all mankind. The conference rejects all policies aimed at curbing the Arab nation's scientific and technological progress, because such policies are hostile acts that contravene the Arabs' legitimate human right to a decent cultural modern life in the service of peace, security, and stability. The conference warns that any individual or collective measures against one Arab country or more by placing special restrictions against the transfer of technology to any Arab country, requires that appropriate stands of solidarity be taken to maintain Arab interests.

The conference also urges the advanced states to facilitate the transfer of technology to Arab countries on an equal footing with other countries and in a manner in line with the mutual interests between the Arab states and those states. The Arab states support international efforts to remove mass destruction weapons and to secure peace and normal human life—efforts that have been successful only thanks to sincere endeavors to settle disputes peacefully and to ease international tensions. However, the Arab states affirm that this kind of process in the Middle East must be based on the complete ban of all mass destruction weapons in the region and not only one particular type. It must also be within the framework of a just and comprehensive solution to the conflict in the region. This must be accompanied by providing equal opportunities to acquire technology, including nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, and conventional weapons for all parties in the region without discrimination and without bias toward any party to the dispute.

The conference reaffirms that placing emphasis on the removal of only one particular type of mass destruction weapon in the Middle East means the adoption of a selective policy toward the region.

The conference asked the Arab foreign ministers to complete measures on amending the Arab League Charter and to submit their recommendations to the next summit conference in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The conference also reviewed the draft Arab Union Charter presented by Libya and decided it should be studied within the projected plan to amend the Arab League Charter.

The conference also decided to hold the Arab summit conferences regularly in November every year. It has also been decided to hold the next ordinary Arab summit in the Arab Republic of Egypt in November 1990.

In view of the importance of following up the subject of Jewish emigration and the Arab stance toward the international economic blocs, the conference decided to call the Arab foreign, economy, and finance ministers into urgent session within two months in order to discuss these two important issues and present the necessary recommendations to the next summit on the way to deal with them, in addition to discussing the issue of encouraging Arab investments in our Arab homeland.

The conference expressed great appreciation of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, for his valuable efforts to bring about the success of the conference and for the wisdom with which he conducted its sessions until the conference achieved important results along the path of bolstering the joint Arab action and safeguarding pan-Arab security. The conference also expressed profound thanks to Iraq for hosting the conference and for the good organization and precise preparation for it. The conference extends a greeting of admiration to the struggling Iraqi people and sincere congratulations on the clear victory they scored in defense of the Arab nation's sovereignty and dignity on the eastern gate of its large homeland. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. [applause]

Communique Issued

LD3005141190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1154 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, May 30 (KUNA)—The emergency Arab Summit Wednesday condemned the Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel as "a serious threat" to Arab National Security and stressed that a proposed international conference to [word indistinct] the Arab-Israeli conflict was now an urgent need.

A final communique issued at the end of the three-day summit said the threat to the Arab nation posed by the Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine calls for collective action to safeguard the rights of Palestinians and protect the national Arab security.

The impact of the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel for resettlement in occupied Arab territories was one of the reasons why the Arab leaders decided to hold the emergency summit.

The summiteers demanded that the United Nations intervene as to ensure that Jewish immigrants would not settle in occupied Arab areas.

The communique said the summit also wanted the world body to "form an international monitoring body" for the purpose and urged the Security Council to pass a resolution to that effect.

The summit, which grouped together 19 Arab heads of state or their representatives, meanwhile blamed the United States for the upward spiral of tension in the Middle East, saying the U.S. wholehearted support for the Jewish state consolidated Israel's policy of occupation and encouraged it to keep up its brutal practices against Arabs.

The summit, the communique said, underscored the need for providing the Palestinian uprising with all forms of "official and popular" support to ensure its continuation until Palestinians regain their right to self-determination.

The summit also condemned Israel's settlement policies and demanded the removal of existing settlements and the scrapping of plans to build new ones.

It urged other world countries, with a clear but implicit reference to the United States, not to extend loans and economic assistance to the Zionist state, so that Israel would not carry on in its expansionist policies.

The conference, while expressing firm support for the Palestinian peace initiative of 1989, renewed the calls for a United Nations-sponsored conference to be attended by all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict including the Palestine Liberation organization on equal footing.

"The international conference calls takes now an aspect of urgency and necessity," according to the communique which underlined the Arab countries' unshaken belief that a fair and durable settlement of the Palestinian question lies in securing the legitimate and inaleinable rights of the Palestinian people.

Key among those rights are self-determination and establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, the communique said.

The summit denounced the U.S. Congress for recognizing Israel's claims to Jerusalem as its capital and insisted that the "legal and religious" status of occupied holy city must not be infringed upon.

Stressing that Jerusalem will be the capital of Palestine, the communique said Arab countries "will take economic measures against any state that considers Jerusalem as Israel's capital." The communique did not elaborate on the planned punitive actions.

The summit echoed a call by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat for the United Nations to provide protection for Palestinians under occupation from Israel's designs of displacement and annihilation.

On the other key summit topic: the Western hostile campaign against Iraq, the summiteers denounced the series of Western and Israeli accusations and threats against Iraq and underlined Baghdad's right to protect its national security the way it deems fit.

Referring to the Western and Israeli allegations that Iraq was trying to build nuclear muscles or to acquire mass destruction weapons, the summit defended Iraq's right to acquire "technological means" and to employ them for "legitimate purposes."

The conference, said the communique, also reaffirmed the Arab countries' commitment to the joint defense charter in connection with the threats against Iraq.

The same charter was also invoked by the summiteers with respect to Jordan which is also being threatened by the impact of the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and by the Zionist state's expansionist policies, the communique said.

The communique, without specifying, said the summit decided to offer Jordan "support" to consolidate that Arab country's capabilities and "steadfastness," as Jordan is a main backer of the Palestinian people's struggle.

The Arab leaders also came out with equally vehement support for Libya in the face of "U.S. threats" and denounced the continued Western economic sanctions against the government of Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The conference again cited the joint defense charter in assuring Libya that the rest of the Arab world would stand by its side against the outside threats.

On the Gulf War, the summit renewed calls for lasting peace between Iran and Iraq on basis of Security Council Resolution 598 and through direct negotiations that would guarantee Iraq's rights, "chief among which is its historical right to sovereignty on Shattul-Arab," the waterway disputed between Iran and Iraq.

The conference also called for greater efforts to secure the release of prisoners of war held by Iran and Iraq, stressing that this was a humanitarian issue that must be solved with no impediments.

Shifting to another Mideast flaming issue, the summit renewed support for the Lebanon peace plan mediated by the Arab League and known as the "al-Ta'if accord," and decided to call for setting up an international fund to help revive Lebanon's economy and institutions.

The summit requested Arab foreign ministers to complete measures for amendment of the Arab League's charter and to report progress to the next summit.

Arab leaders decided to meet regularly in November and that the next ordinary summit his to convene in Cairo, which will in September regain its status as host of the league's headquarters.

Arab finance and economy ministers were to be called for an urgent meeting within the coming two months to discuss the Arab world's position vis-a-vis world economic blocs and the Soviet Jewish emigration.

The ministers are expected to come up with recommendations on how the Arab world tackles the two issues, the communique said.

Al-Qadhdhafi Address

LD3005144790 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 30 May 90

[Speech by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at closing session of the Arab summit in Baghdad—live]

[Text] In the name of God. First I would like to express my profound gratitude in my name, and on behalf of the brothers in the Arab Maghreb Union. I am moved by the brotherly spirit in which we were all treated in our first homeland, which is Iraq, because when we had left the Arabian Peninsula we went through this country and settled in it. Then we continued our march to North Africa, and I wish we had stayed here [laughter]. I was personally moved by the spontaneous welcome given to me by the masses of our Arab people in Iraq, when I paid a visit on the day of my arrival to the mausoleum of our great forefather and our great imam, Musa al-Kazim.

The sons of the brotherly Iraqi people expressed spontaneously from their hearts, without any protocol or any directives, Arab unity, love, and esteem. I would like to say on this occasion that I was deeply moved for that spontaneous welcome at the mausoleum of Imam Musa al-Kazim. I also would like to express my great admiration at the successful conduct of this conference by my brother President Saddam Husayn. I am not just being polite, but it is a true recognition of how I witnessed the successful conduct of a conference with diplomatic skill, brotherly spirit, and high esteem for responsibility at this important Arab conference.

I must say that his skill, his conduct, and his shouldering of the pan-Arab responsibility have largely contributed to our reaching these resolutions, which reflect Arab unity.

First of all, I did not attend any Arab summit conference after the death of Abd al-Nasir, except the emergency summit, after 20 years, in Algeria, which was convened especially to aid the intifadah. I considered it a revolutionary summit, for the sake of a revolutionary cause, in order to support the popular revolution in Palestine. After that, I became embroiled in attending summit conferences. [laughter]. Thus, I attended the Casablanca summit, and, frankly, I only attended the Casablanca summit after mediation and pressure from my brothers. I am now attending this conference in Baghdad at my own desire for one reason, which is that I want the Jamahiriyah to stand beside the sisterly Iraqi Republic and to stand beside my brother Saddam Husayn in his confrontation with imperialism and Zionism. I feel that there are real, arrogant, and blatant challenges on the part of the imperialist and Zionist powers, which aim at terrorizing an Arab country which has begun to build itself and overcome the obstacles after concluding a bloody war. Imperialism and Zionism do not want it to breathe or reconstruct itself, and this is part of the historical criminal plan which is against the Arab motherland and aims at exhausting this motherland, dividing its forces and paralyzing its capabilities.

I considered that whatever is directed against Iraq is itself directed against the Jamahiriyah and against every Arab country. This is especially so after the United States moved the same type of aircraft as that with which it attacked Libya and my own bedroom in 1986 with the aim of killing me and my children; it moved a squadron of the same type as these aircraft, the F-111 fighters. It moved these aircraft from the same bases in Britain as the ones from which it attacked Tripoli and Banghazi, and deployed them in Turkey at the end of this month under the pretext of participating in NATO maneuvers. What is the relationship between Turkey, the Iraqi borders, and NATO? They are held under their English name (Distant) Thunder—this is what the maneuver is called.

I felt that, even though no aggression had taken place, there is a process of provocation and terrorism which aims at weakening the morale of the Arab people, affecting the morale of the Palestinian people, and weakening the morale of the Arab motherland as a whole. Actually, this is why I came here without any mediation this time, but of my own free will, to declare my support and the support of my country as the side of our brothers in Iraq. I declare with responsibility, dear brother, that all Libyan arms, Libyan people, and Libyan wealth are at your disposal and command.

But despite my absence, as I have told you, at those conferences after Abd al-Nasir's death, for the reasons I have mentioned, I have finally felt that this summit which is ending today has been a positive one. In all frankness, I can tell you that I regarded the Casablanca conference as the zero point, and I was afraid that the subsequent conferences would be one below zero, two below zero, and so on to the lowest pont. But in fact I consider this conference as being one above zero and I hope [interrupted by laughter] that the conference which will be held in your country, dear Mubarak, will be 20 above zero. This in fact is due to your Arab concern and resolve which manifested themselves at this conference. It is also due to the challenges against our people in Iraq and against the Arab nation, which we found crude and insolent.

As far as I am concerned, this conference has wiped out what I myself had considered to be a shameful thing, namely the resolutions adopted in Casablanca despite my opposition. Moreover, the Jamahiriyah had then voiced its rejection of a number of resolutions. However, this conference has now in fact corrected what was seen as Arab weakness, if not a collective Arab capitulation in Casablanca, and I believe that those were indeed bad times. Now it seems that the will to resist is stronger, which has made this conference a positive one.

I do not want to thank you for your support for your fraternal Libyan people, but I only want to boost the morale of your brothers and sisters in the Jamahiriyah by telling them that your brothers at this positive conference have decided to support and stand by you against the threats which are still directed at the Gulf of Sidra and the south. All these threats emanate from the imperialist forces which are hostile to the Arab nation. This will surely boost the morale of your fraternal people in the Jamahiriyah in the same way our presence here has surely boosted the morale of our people in Iraq.

The thing that I would like to point out to you is that the unionist-seeking federal project is the outcome of an experiment which lasted 21 bitter years of sufferings, attempts, as well as failures to gather together the dispersing parts of the nation. I am happy that all the differences I used to have with you were never territorial differences, and I asserted this yesterday at the closed session. They were all for the sake of the unity, dignity, and liberation of the land of this nation. This is something of which I am proud. Even when I had disputes with you I never entered into a dispute with any Arabs over territorial borders which were drawn up by the Italians, the British, or the French to separate the sons of the one Arab people. I never enered into a dispute for the sake of authority, or for waters, or grazing-land. My disputes were in fact for the sake of the unity of the nation, the liberation of Palestine, the strength of this nation and the fact that it should occupy its place of merit on this land and under the sun. For this I will fight to the end of my life.

Your adoption of the federation project to be studied by the Arab League will submit the project to the forthcoming summit which we have decided to hold in the Arab Republic of Egypt; as a matter of fact this is great. If we create an Arab federation within a political framework for our Arab activities and within an economic concept we would avoid local disputes over unity and would inject assurance into all these regimes to develop the way they wish. Thus we would stop the interference against the achievement of Arab unity. Unless it is united, this nation will continue to be plagued by mutual interference and mutual disputes because the nation does not feel that it is in its correct and natural position. In fact I am grateful for this because it will achieve a great pan-Arab wish—not for me and not for Libya.

It is the dream of this nation to see a union between the Ocean and the Gulf. All the problems of the nation will come to an end when unity is established. Within this union there will be integrated unities and unions, but finally there will be an Arab Union—like the union of the Soviets or the republics of the United States or in Europe, although I do not know what will they call the latter after 1992.

The other issue which has given me pleasure and reassured me is the issue of taking seriously the subject of investing Arab funds. I address myself to the concept and the material issues which manufacture the future because throughout our history we have talked enough; we have libraries full of volumes of books, speeches, interpretations, prose, and so on. But now we should do what we say. The fact that you have decided that we should seriously study the question of investing Arab funds in the Arab homeland and the return of Arab capital from abroad to be invested in the Arab homeland and the provision of guarantees for Arab investors is very important in my view. Without gathering our wealth and investing it properly and rationally we will be talking in vain and without any benefit. The benefit, as a matter of fact, lies in accumulating the Arab wealth and investing it.

Without gathering and investing it in a rational way, we would be talking in vain. The benefit truly lies in gathering the Arab wealth and investing it. What makes me feel more proud than any other previous time is that we meet at a time when Yemen has a single flag, a single seat, one people, and one homeland. This is in fact a wish about which poetry was written in the words: from Sanaa despite long distances. Finally, we have arrived in Sanaa after long travels. This is a great thing. It is a test for our will. A test to tell us that Arab unity is not just talk.

Someone who is no longer among us, may God have mercy on him, had said that Arab unity is out of fashion. This is not true. Yemeni unity has given the answer to this. Arab unity is a real fact. It is not a sentimental request of a one nation which wants to unite. It has become a necessity of our life.

You do not need this kind of talk, as you are building up unity. I am only expressing my pleasure and pride at the unity of Yemen. The fact that a president renounces his position in his own country made these youths really become guides and examples for the youth of the Arab nation. The question of who would relinquish his position for the other was a real problem. 'Ali al-Bid is a real example for whoever wants to make sacrifices for the unity of this nation. He was a president of an Arab country and now he is vice president. This is true trust. We were not used to trusting each other. Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has removed this fabricated fear from the Arab unity, and allowed all forces to act. He integrated the two peoples.

I had a telephone contact with him prior to his departure to Aden and I said to him: Brother 'Ali, you are going to Aden. Naturally he was going to announce unity. Have you not heard of the Berlin wall which was stormed, and unity is to be declared between the two Germanies. What about you? He answered me: Between us and South Yemen there are barrels which I will remove with my feet when I cross the border. This is precisely what happened. Barrels it was. Barrels separating the one Arab people. The one Arab people are divided by barrels. Between me and President Husni there are barbed wires set up by the English so that supplies...[Mubarak interrupts to say: We have removed them] [laughter and applause] Barbed wires between Libya and Egypt had been put by the Italians to prevent supplies from Egypt to 'Umar al-Mukhtar in al-Jabal al-Akhdar. I am talking about the borders which had been adopted.

Now, we are abolishing borders [Mubarak interrupts, saying jokingly: What are you driving at, Mu'ammar?] [general laughter and applause] I am plotting against the Arab Economic Council. It is a conspiracy. [laughter]

On the whole, we are truly moved by the brotherly spirit which brother Saddam Husayn and the Arab people in Iraq have bestowed on us. In conclusion, I would like to say that, despite our high moral, the danger is still there. We must not ignore the dangerous possibilities. I am sure that any aggression against Iraq will fail. It will fail because of the Iraqi people, and because of our presence and our assurance that we will confront such an aggression.

Those who are thinking of attacking Iraq must think about their failure in the same way they failed in Libya. Such a plan is hostile to the Arab nation and is aimed at preventing the presence of a force between the Atlantic and the Gulf controlling of the Straight of Hormuz, The Shatt al-'Arab, the Gulf of Sidra, the Suez Canal, Bab al-Mandab, and the Straight of Gibraltar. In fact, the imperialist powers in the world, at any point of history, not just now, when we talk about the United States—we could be talking about Hulako or the Crusaders—any imperialist power at any time would not allow the existence of a force capable of controlling these musical keys [as heard] of the world. Therefore they have decided that the region situated between the Atlantic and the Gulf must remain weak. Their interventions in this region are continuous, even if this ultimately requires the use of force or physical liquidation. They quarrelled with me for 20 years, and then they decided to liquidate me physically. They attacked me with 170 aircraft while I was in my house. They wrote in their morning papers: Al-Qadhdhafi is no more. [quotation in French] The Jews throughout the world, the Zionists, took to the streets chanting: Al-Qadhdhafi is finished. [quotation in French] They were chanting that al-Qadhdhafi was no more and that al-Qadhdhafi no longer posed a threat.

The issue is not al-Qadhdhafi per se, because I told Reagan: If you hate me, and if you want to fight with me in a duel with guns, as you used to do during the time of Abraham Lincoln, by all means let us go to any place—Switzerland, or any other place [laughter]—and let us have a duel with guns. Too bad for the one who is killed. This will spare our peoples [word indistinct]. But he was not interested in al-Qadhdhafi, as he refused the duel. He was interested in finding how to repress the Arab nation.

This strategy has now moved from Libya to Iraq—if God forbid—they subjugate Iraq, or if they fail in Iraq, they will inevitably move on to another place. What is being done now to the Palestinian people is psychological terrorism. Sometimes a street in Nablus or Gaza is not the real target. The real target is the Arab street, wherever it might me. This is your fate—you, the Arabs. Anyone who stands up for himself, even with a stone, against imperialism and Zionism, thus will be his fate. This is a warning sent to us daily, and there are messages sent to us via the television screens. We cannot rule out the invasion of Jordan. In fact, my thoughts are constantly with Jordan because it is in the frontline. I have said many times that the Arabs must place huge resources in Jordan, provided Jordan allows the actions of attrition against the enemy, in one way or another, not necessarily from its territory. It should at least allow infiltrations into Palestine. But Jordan on its own cannot assume this responsibility.

Any fida'i [freedom fighter] operation would be followed by an air raid on Jordan. I myself was with you, King Husayn, and as we were heading for the plain of (Muqayr) a raid took place right in front of us. A house was destroyed, and a child lost his leg. There was a 130-mm Iraqi gun, and we were afraid that they might concentrate their attack on it. We found an Iraqi officer who told us: No, thank God, they tried to hit the gun but our men put the gun in a wadi, and therefore the enemy could not hit it.

All this was due to a fida'i operation. You see the reaction. We found the fire raging in the plain of (Muqayr); the raid had been launched minutes before we got there.

I am convinced that Jordan cannot assume alone the responsibility of the fida'i action, the attrition and the war, unless the Arab nation is on its side. This is our responsibility. One day we must make Jordan strong against the Israelis. Then we can launch a war of attrition of a fida'i war [as heard]. In any case, the Zionist entity is doomed to failure.

This nation, even if it does not possess the atomic bomb, possesses the human bomb. We will be one billion. Very shortly we ourselves will be 200 and 300 million people facing 2 or 3 million [not further specified], no matter how many people they can mobilize.

This operation they are undertaking and this disgusting Jewish emigration which the whole world is condemning, is against human rights and is a coercion of poor, elderly Jewish people and children who are being deceived and brought here [as heard] with a view to increasing the demographic nature of the area.

I call upon you, the Arabs, to remove all birth control measures: We must reach 1 billion, by God. [laughter] [Saddam Husayn intervenes to say: Dear Mu'ammar, you call for an increase in the birth rate in Egypt: We encourage the brother President Mubarak to encourage the Egyptians to increase the birth rate. But you must assume the costs.] [applause and laughter]

This is why I removed the borders with Egypt, so that excess citizens in Egypt can come to Libya. [more laughter, exchange of jokes on the subject] What can I do? These are temptations.

In spite of the present danger, tomorrow's victory belongs to this motherland. This motherland will never perish; it has the means of survival. This process of emigration is, as I told you, a hopeless attempt which indicates that they are incapable of being steadfast in the battle with us, even in demography. We will defeat them with every means. They are finished! The gathering of the Jews in Palestine is a gathering for the final grave, not the promised land. Palestine will be the cemetary of the Jews if they want to reject this motherland, create an atomic force and impose their orders on it; it shall never be! This is a lost game and indicates that the historical plan of Zionism—the accumulation of the Jews in Palestine—is a loser. This is the most vulnerable of places and is finished from every direction, and this force is a thorn without a sting; is a phoney power. International factors are changing every day: Israel's friends today may become its enemies tomorrow.

The struggle is continuing until unity and victory are achieved, God willing. Thank you, esteemed president. [applause]

Kuwaiti Amir's Address

LD3005134890 Kuwait KUNA in English 1300 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, May 30 (KUNA)—The Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah Wednesday commended the Iraqi leadership and people for hosting the extraordinary Arab summit and said President Saddam Husayn was able to steer to a successful end.

Speaking on behalf of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states at the closing session, Shaykh Jabir also congratulated the Yemeni people for their reunification and said, "We will support their national steps and wish the Yemeni people and government all success."

H.H. the Amir praised the outcome of the summit and said it was represented in the resolutions and positions reached during the deliberations.

Shaykh Jabir also commended the Arab League Secretariat headed by Secretary General Chedli Klibi for making all preparations for the summit which ensured the success of the conference.

JANA on Summit

LD3005150390 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, Al-Maa [May] 30 (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The emergency Arab summit has condemned the U.S. threats to use force against great al-Jamahiriyah.

The summit has denounced the renewal by the U.S. Administration of the economic boycott against Great al-Jamahiriyah demanding lifting it. The summit, in its final communique released today, has reconfirmed the right of Great al-Jamahiriyah to possess the means of modern technology to achieve development and advancement.

The summit has renewed its solidarity with Great al-Jamahiriyah to encounter the economic siege and U.S. threats abiding by the charter of the Arab League, the treaty of joint Arab defence and economic cooperation strengthening the pillars of world security and peace.

Syria To Implement Resolutions

JN3105072290 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 31 May 90 p 1

[Text] Informed Arab sources in Baghdad have affirmed that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has informed His Majesty King Husayn, President Husni Mubarak, and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that Syria will implement all resolutions adopted by the Arab summit held in Baghdad although it has not participated in the summit. The sources said that Syria will participate effectively in any military or political command which the Arab leaders will form to coordinate the military and political stands and work.

Citing a senior Egyptian source, the Arab sources said that Presidents Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi will head for Damascus at the end of the summit to convey to President al-Asad the summit resolutions to be studied and implemented by Syria. The same source added that President al-Asad asserted to Presidents Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi that the Syrian forces will be placed at the disposal of the Iraqi military command if Iraq is exposed to an American or Israeli aggression.

Next Summit in Egypt

JN3005092690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 May 90 p 1

[From Lamis Andoni in Baghdad]

[Text] Saudi Arabia has given the right to host the next ordinary Arab summit to Egypt, according to Arab officials.

They said that during Tuesday's closed session of the emergency Arab summit here, the Arab leaders decided to hold regular summits at the new Arab League headquarters in Egypt unless another country was ready to host emergency summits as and when warranted.

"At that point the Saudis announced that the next ordinary Arab summit will be held in Egypt," an official said.

Saudi Arabia was chosen as the venue for the next regular Arab summit when the last regular summit was held in 1982 in the Morrocan city of Fez. But since then Arab differences and urgent issues have compelled the convening of five extra-ordinary Arab summits; Casablanca (1985), Amman (1987), Algiers (1988), Casablanca (1989) and finally the current one in Baghdad, which opened Monday. Political analysts believe that the Saudi decision reflected the growing coordination between Riyadh and Cairo, both of whom strongly opposed confrontation with the U.S. at the Baghdad summit.

But other Arab officials said that Riyadh was also trying to avoid hosting an Arab summit as long as Arab differences prevailed, especilaly between Iraq and Syria.

In the past the Saudis have clearly refused to host any summit prior to "solving the various inter-Arab disputes."

'Last Closed Session' Held

JN3005070190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 30 May 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 30 May (INA)—The Arab foreign ministers held their last closed session today to complete discussion of the draft final communique of the extraordinary Arab summit, and a number of other draft resolutions.

The Arab foreign ministers will submit these resolutions to the Arab leaders at their extraordinary summit, which will conclude later today. [passage omitted]

Saddam on Possible Meeting With Iranian President

JN3005184390 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at his place of residence this afternoon His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine.

The meeting was attended by members of the Jordanian delegation accompanying his majesty the king. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi minister of culture and information and head of the honorary mission to His Majesty King Husayn, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman also attended for Iraq.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn made a statement to Jordanian Television, in which he said:

[Begin recording] [Saddam] The most important...[changes thought] the essence of [the summit] resolutions depends on brotherliness, brotherly relations and calm, frank, and direct dialogue. We hope what is good for the Arab nation will be achieved, God willing.

[Reporter] Your Excellency: I have a question related to pan-Arab security. Arab and international news agencies have said that a meeting is expected between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and the Iranian president. What does President Saddam have to say about this?

[Saddam] We have sent a direct message to the Iranian leadership, and we received a direct message in reply. We also sent a second message in reply to the message we received from the Iranian leadership. We are awaiting an answer from the Iranian leadership to our messages. We will continue to hold direct consultations with the Iranian leadership until peace is achieved and calm and stability prevail, with God's assistance. [end recording]

Arab UN Group Reviews Security Council Session

LD3005094490 Kuwait KUNA in English 0809 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] United Nations, May 30 (KUNA)—The Arab group met Tuesday [29 May] night to review results of the Security Council meeting in Geneva over the weekend.

The 22-member group decided, however, to await the end of the emergency Arab summit meeting in Baghdad before taking any action.

The summit was to have ended Wednesday but was extended by one day for further consultations.

Among the key issues discussed at the Arab Group meeting was the U.S. position on an Arab proposal to send a Security Council fact-finding team to the occupied Arab territories, a proposal the U.S. opposed at Geneva Saturday.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had stated last week the U.S. would be ready to discuss the proposal if it turned up in any draft resolution by the council.

In a clarification Tuesday, the State Department said Washington would only agree to a proposal to send a U.N. special representative to the occupied territory.

For the Arabs, this would be meaningless as the secretary-general already has such a mandate and does not require Security Council approval, Arab League Permanent Observer Clovis Maksud said.

The Council was scheduled to meet Wednesday afternoon and issue a general statement on peace-keeping operations, unrelated to the current debate on the occupied territories.

And on Thursday the Council plans to meet to extend the mandate of UNDOF, the U.N. Observer Force stationed along the Syrian-Israeli border.

No decision has been made on when the council would meet again on the occupied territories. Such a meeting may be delayed even until after the Bush-Gorbachev summit later this week, some diplomats speculated..

A Soviet official held out the possibility earlier Tuesday at a news conference in New York for a joint U.S.-Soviet statement on the situation in the Middle East.

Palestinian Affairs

Infiltration Operation Carried Out Against Israel

PLF: Operation 'Achieved Its Aims'

JN3105071490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 31 May 90

[Text] Amman, 30 May (WAKH)—The Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] has said that the heroic battle waged by heroic fedayeen against the Israeli Navy along the Palestinian coast from Ashqelon in the north to Herzliyya in the south has achieved its aims.

The PLF said in a statement that the battle began in the early hours. Before the boats carrying the revolutionaries had arrived at the coast, about five kilometers away, the rocket group pounded several targets along the battlefield from Herzliyya in the north to Ashqelon in the south, including northern Tel Aviv.

The PLF statement, which was issued this evening, explained that as soon as the groups arrived at their destinations, the fedayeen landed on the beach and took control, through heavy firing, of the coastal road from Herzliyya to Ashqelon at certain locations.

It pointed out that the panic in the enemy positions, due to heavy rocket shelling and machine gun firing, prevented the enemy forces from stopping the fedayeen moving forward toward their targets. These targets were destroyed and all personnel present were killed.

PLF Issues Statement

NC3005163290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1610 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] The Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] issued a statement on the infiltration operation near Tel Aviv a short while ago. The statement said the operation was a reaction to what the front described as the massacre of Palestinians in Tel Aviv's suburbs. A spokesman for the front had earlier contacted the AFP offices in Nicosia saying that two groups, each comprising seven Palestinians, carried out the attack, which began at dawn today. He noted that the Palestinian group used rockets against Israeli helicopters during the operation.

PLF Claims Responsibility

NC3005191990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] The Abu-al-'Abbas-led Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] has claimed responsibility from Beirut for the infiltration south and north of Tel Aviv via the coast. In a second statement issued this evening, the PLF noted that six of its speedboats sailed on specific missions along 70 km of the Israeli coast, from Ashqelon to Herzliyya, north of Tel Aviv.

In the statement, the PLF pointed out that three boats were commissioned to carry out operations in the area extending from Tel Aviv southward to Ashqelon, while the other three were entrusted with missions in the area extending northward from Tel Aviv to Herzliyya.

The Front announced that the boats had succeeded in reaching their specific targets, clashed at sea with the Israeli Navy, and shelled Herzliyya, north of Tel Aviv, and Ashdod with rockets. Several other groups managed to land on the shore, where they engaged in violent clashes.

Al-Quds Radio Praises Operation

JN3005201690 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] The Zionist enemy has declared its forces on maximum alert since early this morning following the daring fedayeen sea operation carried out by a Palestinian group off the southern coast of Palestine.

In this operation, speedboats managed to reach the Palestinian coast and clashed with enemy forces in a large-scale battle, in which special units from the military forces, the Giv'ati Brigade forces, the Air Force, and the Navy participated, according to the confessions of Dan Shomron, chief of staff of the enemy's army, in his news conference at 1615 today. Shomron claimed that his forces prevented the armed group from carrying out their mission and that the battle ended in killing four of the fedayeen group and arresting its other members. He denied, as usual, any casualties among his forces. He also claimed in his news conference that the mother ship, which carried the boats and the fedayeen group, had sailed from the port of Banghazi in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, and then headed for the Egyptian coast after landing six rubber speedboats that carried the fedayeen Palestinian group to the Palestinian shore.

Al-Quds Radio, the Palestinian Arab Radio on the path of liberating man and land, hails the fedayeen operation group who returned to Palestine by sea, thus following the steps of their colleagues, the heroes of the Qibya operation, who crossed into Palestine in their gliders.

'Arafat To Arrive in Tehran To Mediate With Iraq

LD3005175290 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1627 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 30 (TANJUG)—The reputable Iranian daily TEHRAN TIMES, which is considered close to the local Internal Affairs Ministry, today quoted a high Palestinian official in Baghdad, who said that Yasir 'Arafat will soon arrive in Tehran on a mediating mission aimed at organizing an Iran-Iraq peace summit.

Well-informed Arab sources told the TANJUG correspondent in Tehran that the leaderships of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Iran have been in contact for already a month.

One of 'Arafat's councilors, who is believed to have delivered here the letter from Baghdad on the continuation of the peace process through top-level talks, allegedly visited Tehran at the beginning of May.

Relations between the PLO and Iran have been far from cordial for over a year now. However, it seems that Iran's stand on the PLO and 'Arafat has significantly changed due to the persistent Palestinian intifadah, which is qualified in Tehran as a fundamental Islamic revolt of the masses.

Jerusalem Arabic Reports Anti-'Arafat Activities

JN3005174590 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0930 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Supporters of anti-'Arafat organizations obstructed a PLO meeting in Tunis to express solidarity with the citizens in the territories. Members of a Tunisian Maoist organization shouted slogans such as: 'Arafat is a traitor; Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] is a struggler. A source at the PLO headquarters in Tunis said it is likely that this group obstructed the meeting in Tunis upon instructions from organizations that oppose the PLO, foremost of which are the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command led by Ahmad Jibril, and the Abu-Musa organization. The source added that similar incidents took place during other support rallies in Jordan and Kuwait.

Cuban President Affirms 'Absolute Support'

JN3005213390 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1641 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received a message from Cuban President Fidel Castro reaffirming his country's absolute support for our people's just and legitimate struggle and condemning the brutal crimes and massacres committed—and that continue to be committed—by the Zionist occupation forces against our defenseless people. He stressed the need to put an end to the Zionist occupation of our sacred land and to recognize our people's rights to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

DFLP's Hawatimah on Arab Summit, U.S. Stance

JN2805202290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] What are the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories expecting from Baghdad summit? This was one of several questions posed today by our colleague Salah Salamah to Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. Hawatimah answered:

[Begin recording] [Hawatimah] First of all, we expect the extraordinary summit to decide on the need to provide financial support for the intifadah. The valiant Gaza workers who were martyred in the Tel Aviv massacre Sunday [20 May] were victims of the quest to earn bread and butter at Israeli establishments. We also expect the summit to adopt a clear political decision to stop chasing the illusion of the American solution. Conservative Arab and Palestinian forces have been chasing after this American solution since May 1989. The summit is also expected to adopt a clear resolution calling for an international peace conference to achieve a comprehensive and fair solution.

[Salamah] Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, DFLP secretary general, after the convening of the UN Security Council in Geneva and the lack of any resolution on the occupied territories, what do you expect from the world community at present?

[Hawatimah] It was clear that the United States carried out a deceptive maneuver against the PLO. Behind the scenes, it asked the PLO to disregard 'Arafat's request to attend the Security Council session in New York in return for which the United States would approve holding the meeting in Geneva and would facilitate the adoption of a resolution to dispatch international UN observers to the occupied Palestinian territories. But following this agreement, the United States reneged and said it was against the dispatch of permanent UN observers to the occupied Palestinian territories. It actually adopted this contradictory position and reneged on Baker's statements. This is a continuation of U.S. policy.

[Salamah] According to the latest infomation from Washington, the U.S. Administration is ready to consider sending a fact-finding UN delegation under the supervision of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to the occupied territories. Does this satisfy the Palestinian leadership?

[Hawatimah] This is a very minor step that satisfies no one. Baker had said the United States was ready to send international observers from the Security Council. The United States has retreated and it is now talking about a fact-finding mission to go there once, and for a short period of time; and the mission will not be sent pursuant to a Security Council resolution but according to a decision by the UN secretary general. [end recording]

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Monthly Warns of Future Oil Crisis

LD3005163890 Kuwait KUNA in English 0850 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Vienna May 30 (KUNA)—OPEC has again urged oil producers and consumers to formulate a "well-articulated" energy [word indistinct] for the immediate future to avert the possibility of another major oil crisis, it has been reported here.

According to the monthly "OPEC BULLETIN", released here today by the organization's secretariat, a situation whereby demand for oil was projected to overshoot supply was "just a few years down the road".

It warns that "each and every nation" would be affected—the rich OECD countries, where oil demand was slowly but steadily rising, the newly-industrialized states which were now "burgeoning consumers" and even the poor developed countries whose demand for crude might yet gather momentum as the decade progressed.

"We all need to address this crucial question and we need to pool our resources in a concerted effort to find a positive answer," it declares.

The publication points out that the facts were clear—OPEC had the oil in the ground but did not possess the required financial resources to get sufficient quantities of it to the consumer by the middle of the 1990s.

Non-OPEC countries, it points out, could not be expected to meet the extra demand—even in the most optimistic production scenarios, large discoveries of oil were a very remote possibility.

"That is why we have made it our duty, as an organized and responsible group of producers, to draw attention to this approaching hydra-headed crisis in the hope that a well-articulated plan can be put in place while there is still time for action," it explains.

The editorial concedes that the recent pressure on oil prices has been "widely and correctly" attributed to overproduction by OPEC member countries, something for which the organization has been subjected to a "barrage of criticism".

[Word indistinct], it stresses that these are the same critics who have "always pounced" on the organization when prices appeared on the rise which could only be interpreted as a "heads they win, tails we lose" situation.

"We are the first to admit that our production ceiling has been exceeded ... by more than [words indistinct] said the editorial.

"We admit that in the short term we have a compliance problem for which there are not ready solutions. But, in the rush to criticize the organization, let our critics not overlook, as they appear to be doing, the great challenge confronting the world—meeting its increasing demand for energy."

Algeria

Bendjedid Addresses National Liberation Front

LD2305103790 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 May 90

[Speech by President Chadli Bendjedid to National Liberation Front (FLN) cadres in Constantine on 21 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] I am pleased today, and I have not held meetings such as this one for a long time as far as Constantine and the Algerian East are concerned, and on the occasion of my visit to the Algerian east I wanted to meet you so we hold talks together regarding the latest developments witnessed by the country in various fields. I said I would visit the Algerian east. This visit comes within the framework of inspection and inauguration of some economic units or some units of the Armed Forces.

I wanted on this occasion to meet you and try to put you in the picture as far as all the developments and the prospects are concerned without any detour or evasion, as we have heard a lot of gossip and perhaps on some occasions we noticed in the cadres of the state—I emphasize the cadres of the state—that ideas have beconme wavering as far as the future prospects and orientations of the Algerian state. We noticed also distortions, as well as destructive criticisms from various elements affiliated to parties or currents. However, the destructive criticisms have created the notion of nothingness—[according to these] the Algerian revolution has not built anything, that is, it is said everything is bad. However, in light of experience and giving opportunities to everybody as far as expression in a democratic framework is concerned, we said: It is all right, perhaps people will be trained in this democracy and sometimes they do not understand the logical and legal boundaries as far as the practice of democracy is concerned. However, we put all this down to lack of experience and we accepted various excesses in different domains and some people and some organizations understood this was a weakness of the state. We always say when we start an experiment, we know there must be some excesses in it. I said it right from the beginning and we must accept some excesses so that people get accustomed, understand, and reach the true understanding of one's limits and those of the others. [passage omitted]

On the [political] reforms, I do not want to talk long about the past and what happened in the past. You know all that. We are a part of the past, and a part of the past is in the leadership. I will never disown the past. I will never disown the past and my contributions to it and my responsibilities for some part of the past. I will never disown my stand on 19 June—never.

Unfortunately, everytime there are changes in Algerian society, we find hesitant people, and people who disown things they were proud of. When the situation changes, everyone disowns his roots and responsibilities in the past. I am not one of those people or generations. [passage omitted]

As for the coming stages, I said that when the necessary conditions are satisfied, and when a suitable atmosphere prevails, there will be other elections at other levels. I will stop at that. I will not specify a month or a year or the stages for the following elections. But I say, when the necessary conditions are satisfied, we will work bit by bit toward fulfilling the people's will. Everyone who wants to reach the level of responsibility at the level of elected councils, or even at the central level, then he should do so through the will of the people. We will never accept anyone who wants to impose himself from the central level without the will of the people. [passage omitted]

The Algerian people now know and understand the political speech. The people know who is honest and truthful and those who are practicing demagogic policies. There are some who go even further than that, and use issues which should remain above everything else and which should be sacred and removed from the marginal conflicts of the politicians. These things now are being used to attract the sympathies of the people. We do not want to engage in a conflict on this matter, but we say no one should give anyone else a lesson in Islam or any other field. We all work, and we do not need anyone to give us a lesson in this field.

I said there are people who think of themselves as the Messiah and others who think of themselves as the coming Mahdi. There is no priesthood in Islam. There is no one who is the guardian of Islam. Any Muslim who is capable of understanding is responsible for implementing Islam and for fighting all the social diseases and advising about the good way. But he should do this in a good way. [passage omitted]

I do not want you to understand that I am criticizing a party, but I am criticizing some methods, as I criticize some methods of other parties which remove themselves from the basic constants of the Algerian nation and our noble traditions. [passage omitted]

Every party has the right to draw up a program and try to convince the Algerians to accept its program. This is the party's right. But the use of violence in the name of faith, of the religious side, or in the name of any political program whatever it is, is not acceptable at all, and we will never allow anyone to behave in such a way. We will put an end to any one who thinks himself able to do so.

Naturally you have noticed the attempts to damage the reputation of Algeria have reached the level that even our enemies are now following up with great attention what is happening Algeria. They are trying to distort it and give it another deformed image removed from the truth. This happens particularly when they see the great marches in Algeria were disciplined. We and the Algerian people should be proud of this discipline and of these marches, which were conducted in a disciplined and peaceful way. This is the future and this is the horizon. We hope our people and all the political parties will work within this framework.

We do not want the brothers to understand that this is an attempt to push forward the FLN because of the recent march, but we are saying it only because from now on we should talk frankly and with no secrecy when the matter concerns an important issue. To distort and belittle the value of the FLN march, they added to it in the news bulletins that there was an attempt to assassinate President Chadli. Look to what extent those who are full of hatred have stooped in attacking the symbols of the revolution. The symbols of the revolution are not persons, but they are the basic constants. Our basic constants are the FLN; the national language; Islam, and the martyrs of the liberation revolution. All these distortion attempts are aimed at belittling this march because it broke all their calculations and thinking. [passage omitted]

President Appoints Political Affairs Adviser

LD2705055690 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 May 90

[Text] It was learned from a statement by the Presidency of the Republic today that President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, appointed Mr. Messaoud Ait Chaalal to the post of adviser for political affairs to the president of the Republic. The statement added that in this capacity, Mr. Ait Chaalal will follow the relations with the elected, the political parties, and the mass organizations.

Egypt

Mubarak Returns After 'Good' Talks With Al-Asad

NC3005190790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1833 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him returned home this evening from Damascus. The president stopped over in the Syrian capital for a brief visit while on his way back from Baghdad, where he attended the extraordinary Arab summit conference that ended earlier today.

In a statement to newsmen, President Mubarak described his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad as good.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, the president's press secretary, stated President Mubarak paid a quick visit to Syria, where he was welcomed on arrival at Damascus airport by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and a number of senior officials. Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad held a one-hour tete-a-tete meeting in the VIP lounge at Damascus International Airport. The press secretary said that the arrangements for the Damascus visit were made at Baghdad airport after President Mubarak had decided to stop over on his return to Cairo.

'Abd-al-Majid Backs 'Arafat's UN Force Proposal

JN2905195890 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 May 90 p 2

[By Muhammad Barakat]

[Excerpt] Egypt yesterday declared its full support for Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's position and initiative presented to the UN Security Council in Geneva, in which he asked for UN peacekeeping troops to protect Palestinians lives from the danger and violence practiced by the Israeli occupation troops.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that what 'Arafat has asked for is a just and objective request. He also said Egypt hails 'Arafat's peace-oriented policy and supports the call to provide international protection for the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip within the framework of the UN.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said Egypt hopes when the Security Council convenes in New York, it will approve 'Arafat's legitimate request.

He said all states must understand the need to achieve this legal and legitimate request, which may help calm down the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the French position, which supported 'Arafat's proposal, is a constructive and positive one, and we hope all parties will understand this issue in order to restore tranquillity and stability in the region.

The foreign minister also stressed the Foreign Ministry has already issued instructions to Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's representative in the UN Geneva headquarters, and 'Amr Musa, Egypt's permanent representative to the UN, to support the Palestinian proposal and seek mass support from other states for it.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday met with the U.S. peace delegation currently on a visit to Cairo as part of a tour in the region. The delegation comprises 46 politicians and is headed by Senator Charles Percy.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed to the delegation Egypt's efforts to advance the peace process and achieve a just and comprehensive solution. He also stressed the need to take into account the rights of all parties, at head of which is the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state.

In his talks with the delegation Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed the need for effective U.S. participation regarding this. He also said the United States must assume its responsibilities for achieving a comprehensive and just peace, since this would ensure the interests of all parties and induce the appropriate climate for economic development and progress. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Border Authorities Meet Malian Counterparts

AB3005140690 Bamako Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Malian and Mauritanian border authorities yesterday held a meeting at Kankossa in Mauritania. The purpose was to examine and evaluate measures aimed at restoring peace along our common border. The Malian delegation was led by the governor of the Kayes region, Mr. (Badi) Ould Ahmed (Galfour). From Kayes, Bidossana Traore reports:

[Begin Traore recording] The meeting took place 50 km from the Malian border. Kankossa is the equivalent of a district in Mali. The meeting between the border authorities is in line with the longstanding periodic consultations between officials of Kayes region and of the border regions of Mauritania with a view to finding solutions to the socioeconomic problems faced by the inhabitants along the common border. Thus, featured on the meeting's agenda were the implementation of the measures adopted at the Kabou meeting, evaluation of the present situation at the border, the adoption of practical measures, and other matters.

Regarding the first item on the agenda, both parties noted with satisfaction the efforts made by the authorities to restore security and tranquility at the common border. However, certain lapses were noted, especially in the implementation of measures such as the revitalization of village committees; the facilitating of contacts, and the communication of information between the security forces; the return of property to rightful owners on both sides of the frontier; and territorial violation through border incursions by armed gangs.

On the evaluation of the present situation at the border, both parties deplored the continued attacks launched by armed gangs and the theft of cattle, acts which have spread to the Assaba region of Mauritania. This situation has often caused considerable confusion at the scene with reprisals often resulting in loss of human lives and damage to the environment through bushfires.

Under the circumstances, the three governors—in other words, the (?wanis) of Guidimaka and Assaba and the governor of Kayes—adopted the following practical measures: to conduct, immediately, a systematic search for reckless individuals in villages, hamlets, and a search for suspicious characters. The security forces were also instructed to stamp out the secret hideouts of armed gangs. The results of all these measures will be assessed next November at the next meeting of governors and (?wanis). Prior to that date, however, on 15 June, the first meeting between the (?hakims) and the district commandants will be held at [name indistinct], Mauritania, to restore confidence among the people through an enlightenment campaign. They will also take inventory of property on both sides to embark on the return of such property to their rightful owners. Another measure worth mentioning is that, based on reciprocity, Mauritanian villagers whose farms are located in Mali will be granted access to these farms. [end recording]

Kuwait

Solidarity Sit-in Staged at Palestinian Embassy

LD3105101490 Kuwait KUNA in English 0815 GMT 31 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 31 (KUNA)—A number of Palestinian intellectuals and journalists staged a sit-in last night at the Palestine embassy expressing their solidarity with the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories. The [word indistinct] issued a statement in which they said that the current bloody plots against the Palestinians aim at destroying them completely and deny their human rights. The statement added that the latest massacre which took place on May 1990 is a continuation of 'Dayr Yasin', 'Qibyah', Kafr Qaslim, and Sabra and Shatila massacres in which hundreds of Palestinian peoople were deliberately killed.

The statement went on that intellectual institutes in the occupied territories are calling on all Arab institutions to celebrate May 30th as an 'education day' and issue condemnation statements denouncing atrocities against Arab Palestinians.

However the statement strongly warned the world that the turmoil situation in the occupied Palestine against the Israeli oppression will continue unless the world puts an end to Israeli inhuman actions and sends international troops to protect the Palestinians.

Qatar

Amir Returns From Baghdad Summit 30 May

JN3105072790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0620 GMT 31 May 90

[Excerpt] Doha, 30 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, returned to Doha this evening after leading his country's delegation to the extraordinary Arab summit, which was concluded in Baghdad earlier today. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Returns to Jeddah After Arab Summit

LD3005163190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1451 GMT 30 May 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 30 May (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, arrived with God's care and protection in Jeddah at 1720 [1420 GMT] from Baghdad, where he led the delegation of the Kingdom at the emergency Arab summit meeting that concluded today in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih on Economic, Political Cost of Unity

JN2905175790 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 28 May 90 p 27

[Interview with 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen, by Muhammad Zayn in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Zayn] Mr. Chairman, who will pay the price of the unity of the two Yemens? The German leadership [not further specified] was obliged to establish a 70-billion mark fund so GDR institutions could shift from socialism to liberalism. How much will the somewhat similar action in Yemen cost? And is there a need to establish a special fund to be financed locally or by the Arab countries?

[Salih] There is no way of comparing the Yemeni and German unities; each has its unique and specific characteristics. In the Yemeni unity, everything was merged out of eagerness to employ all capabilities and resources in the service of Yemenis and to achieve development according to the needs of the Yemeni regions. The aim is to ensure just distribution and achieve increasing growth rates for all regions without exception, in a manner that serves the general national interest and reflects our aspirations for comprehensive progress and cultural development.

Consequently, the entire Yemeni people has paid the price of the unity through their sacrifices, struggle, and achievements. The Yemenis are the first beneficiaries of the unity; it is aimed at their progress and well-being.

[Zayn] Mr. Chairman, this is about the economic cost, but concerning the political cost, there are reports and beliefs that some internal and external sides feel that they may pay the cost of the Yemeni unity. How do you assess these analyses and rumors? And how true are reports about tribal disturbances at border regions? The city of Ma'rib was said to have moved against the unity.

[Salih] We do not care much for rumors. As a journalist, you can visit all regions of the Republic to verify the situation is secure and stable in all regions without exception. You can even see clearly how the masses of our Yemeni people have received the news of the unity; how they expressed their joy and pleasure with this great development and this historic national achievement, which constitutes a full victory for their will, and the full embodiment of their aspirations and hopes for a bright future.

Our people are the makers of unity; they are its fortified fortress and the vehicle that will push the march toward the broadest horizons of success and progress. Therefore, rumors and lies by the enemies of unity—and they are from outside Yemen—will not deter our people, who are determined to realize all their ambitions and goals under the shadow of the Republic of Yemen.

It can be said some news media might like to fabricate sensational news for certain reasons, but the truth soon comes out, and the rumors will be proved false. Moreover, public opinion is no longer affected by such rumors, which only make these news media lose their credibility. [passage omitted]

[Zayn] What do you mean by the transitional period for the unity? How long will it take, and what is its purpose?

[Salih] By the transitional period, we mean the period in which the establishment of the Republic of Yemen is organized until the general elections for the Council of Representatives are held. The transitional period will be 30 months—and this is the remaining period in the term of the legislative authority. This authority has now been integrated within the framework of the current Council of Representatives of the Republic.

The transitional period was imposed in the higher interest of Yemen with a view to giving better opportunity for arranging the situation in the new Republic and establishing it on firmer and stronger foundations.

[Zayn] Mr. Chairman, we do not mean to attack the socialist economy that dominated in the southern part of Yemen for many years, but the fact is the socialist economy has its diseases, which are internationally known. Some fear these diseases may be contracted by the northern part after the opening of the frontiers and the unification of public institutions. So what are your precautions, knowing that there are already complaints in the south that missing commodities are being leaked to the north?

[Salih] I think your question has been superceded by events. The economy of the Republic of Yemen is defined by the Constitution, which was approved by the legislative authority (the current Council of Representatives) and according to which the new Republic was proclaimed. At any rate, this economy is based neither on the socialist nor on the capitalist systems, but rather on a national system stemming from the country's resources, capabilities, and potentials, and from its own experience in development. The Yemeni economy will be built on the basis of balance and integration between all economic sectors—public, private, mixed, and corporate sectors. It will concentrate on developing all agricultural, industrial, and commercial sectors, improving the quality of production and raising its rates, and activating aspects of investment and optimal use of all resources and energies. The aim is to build a strong national economy that fulfills people's prosperity and well-being.

[Zayn] Mr. Chairman, after unity there must be some developments concerning the programs and plans of the Yemeni company for oil investment. How true is the talk about the withdrawal of the Soviets, and where is the position of Aden's refinery and port in Yemen's oil program?

[Salih] First, the reports about the withdrawal of the Soviets from the oil exploration project at Shabwah and Ma'rib are not true.

Concerning Aden's refinery, it will be the principal refinery in Yemen, and we will support, develop, and modernize its facilities to enable it to meet all demands in the field of oil refining and exportation.

Since Aden is the economic and commercial capital of our young Republic, it will play a major role in our national economy, especially given that its port is prepared to provide all commercial services and facilities. [passage omitted]

[Zayn] Mr. President, you recently mediated between Ethiopia and the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] and sponsored negotiations between them. What was the extent of your mediation and your expectations concerning this issue?

Regarding the Ethiopian pilots who fled with their planes to Sanaa, how did you handle that subject, and where has it got to so far?

[Salih] I believe you followed up the results of that mediation where the two sides, the Ethiopian and the ELF factions, reached agreement in their last meeting in Sanaa over starting preparatory negotiations in approximately two months' time. The two sides themselves reached agreement on the results of that mediation, and described it as an agreement by both sides to enter into direct negotiations.

[Zayn] Mr. President, what will happen to the work forces who left Aden in the past years and who were transformed into institutions working either in the northern part or abroad? How did you discuss this topic in the unity meetings?

[Salih] On 30 November 1989, we closed all files concerning the period before that. We turned over a new leaf, leaving the old one behind with all its pains and sorrows. Together with the young Republic of Yemen, we have entered a new era and stage which is based on adherence to democracy as a program and basic option for construction. Within this option, the opportunity will be open to opinion and counter-opinion and the participation of all the people, including all their political forces and social figures, in the national construction march without any preconditions, political scrutiny, or question marks concerning any person. The Republic of Yemen is the fruit of all the Yemeni peoples' struggle. It is the homeland of all Yemenis, and the responsibility of elevating it is that of every noble Yemeni, whoever or wherever he may be. God will forgive what has already happened. [passage omitted]

[Zayn] Mr. President, it has been said that Israeli reconnaissance planes have flown across the Yemeni borders many times. How true is that?

[Salih] This information is not true. In general, the Zionist enemy poses a dangerous threat to every fraternal Arab country and to pan-Arab security in general.

[Zayn] Mr. President, what effect will unity have on the commitments and contracts the southern part has with

Arab and foreign countries (Aden's ties with Moscow)? [parentheses as published] What is the nature of the relationship within the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] and its previous agreements with the member countries in the ACC?

[Salih] The Republic of Yemen announced its commitment to all previous contracts and commitments of the two countries (the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen), and on the regional, pan-Arab, Islamic, and international level. It will become an active member of the ACC, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, the United Nations, and all the regional, Arab, and Islamic organizations.

The new country will benefit from all the previous good Arab and international relations of any of the two parts. It will work to bolster and strengthen them in order to serve the interests of the Yemeni people and the fraternal and friendly peoples, including the friendly Soviet Union.

[Zayn] Mr. President, is there any truth regarding reports of a plan to position forces from the Palestinian revolution forces in Yemen? Does that have to do with training or with possibilities of a new Israeli aggression on some Arab countries?

[Salih] First, there is no truth to such reports. The Palestinian forces have been present in Yemen as they have been in some other Arab countries since they left Beirut after the Israeli invasion of 1982, stemming from Yemen's firm and principled stands to support the Palestinian people's struggle to retrieve their legitimate rights and establish their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. [passage omitted]

[Zayn] Mr. President, after establishing the united Republic of Yemen, could you define for us clearly the prominent features of the relationship between you and the neighboring countries?

[Salih] The Republic of Yemen will make efforts to develop the good and ideal relations that bind us to the neighboring countries and which are based on positive cooperation, mutual respect, and noninterference in internal affairs to guarantee prosperity for these relations. The Republic of Yemen is bent on solving problems or issues with a spirit of peaceful, understanding, friendly, and respectful dialogue to further the atmosphere of trust and good- neighborliness, and to develop good relations in a way serving the joint interests of our people and the peoples of those countries.

Salih, Al-Bid Return With Al-Qadhdhafi, Gouled

JN3005213690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 May 90

[Excerpt] Brothers Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialit Party, accompanied by brothers Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 Libyan September Revolution, and Hassan Gouled, president of the fraternal Republic of Djibouti, returned after participating in the meetings of the extraordinary Arab summit. The summit ended today in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Further Reaction to Infiltration Attempt on Coast

Shomron Makes Statement

TA3005152490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1320 GMT 30 May 90

[Opening statement by Chief of Staff Dan Shomron to news conference at Bet Sokolov Press Club in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] Good evening. We are holding this news conference to describe things precisely, eliminate the rumors and stories which usually accompany such an incident, and present an accurate picture to you and the public in Israel.

First, I would like to say that all the terrorist boats which were on their way to commit a terrorist action, to commit killings in the State of Israel, were captured. To the best of our knowledge, some of the terrorists were killed and the rest were captured. This operation was carried out by the Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] faction, the Palestine Liberation Front, which is part of the PLO. The head of this organization is a member of the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestinian National Council. He organized an operation which simply aimed at killing civilians in the most densely populated areas in Israel, namely the central coast area, the Tel Aviv area.

The operation began three days ago and was based on a mother ship that carried six Libyan-made boats. This ship left Libya, the Benghazi port, and was supposed to arrive off Israel's coast. There it was supposed to launch the six boats with the terrorists. Mounted on these boats were a heavy-caliber machine gun, katyusha-type rockets, and a large quantity of other equipment. The terrorists themselves were equipped with a large amount of various types of ammunition and arms. The intention was to launch the six boats—one of which was carrying fuel that was supposed to refuel the others on the way—and these boats were supposed to split up and proceed to beaches in the Tel Aviv region.

In actual fact, one of the boats broke down upon launching from the mother ship. The terrorists continued with five boats. Two of the other five then broke down as well. As I said, one of the boats was carrying extra fuel, and the terrorists were therefore crowded on two boats. As you can see on this diagram, these two boats split up, one proceeding north and the other south of Tel Aviv.

At this time our coastal defense system entered into operation. This system is highly reliable and effective and is based on various systems—the Navy commander will elaborate on this—of the Navy, with the help of the Air Force. Once the system detected the approach of a force, we activated all other systems, manned the main command points with senior commanders, and began our operations.

The northern boat was detected first, north of Tel Aviv, when a Navy boat intercepted it. The terrorists on this boat surrendered. At the same time, a Navy ship and an Air Force surveillance plane detected a boat south of Tel Aviv which was rapidly sailing toward shore. The Navy ship directed fire at it. The terrorist speedboat managed to land on the coast, while the surveillance plane overhead identified and counted them, and transmitted information on their exact whereabouts. Within minutes an aerial force of ours stopped this terrorist squad and did not allow it to go farther inland. Some of them surrendered immediately upon seeing the aerial force, while the others dispersed around the surrounding terrain.

It was already clear by that time that they could not continue. They were practically stopped right on the shore. Our land forces started arriving in vehicles, and with the aid of helicopters secured the area and liquidated the terrorists. The forces which arrived consisted of the Giv'ati Brigade, special IDF forces, and the special police unit which operates under the Army's command in such circumstances. We operated together with the police, whose role was to block traffic axes and evacuate people from the beach. We also alerted all nearby settlements to prevent any possibility that, if one of the terrorists managed to break away, he would be able to achieve his goal of killing civilians in his path. Within a short while some of these terrorists were killed, and all the others were captured. Anyone who holds up his hands and surrenders is taken prisoner. We also continued to search the sea, and discovered the two boats which broke down on the way and remained at sea, west of Tel Aviv. The picture was now complete.

We know that the Libyan mother ship turned in the direction of Egypt. According to our assessment, the small fuel boat is also sailing toward Egypt.

I want to say here that our coastal defense system—and we have a long coast—operated very well, aided by the great deal of experience accumulated in the past. The cooperation with the Air Force and other forces was also very good. All elements acted very rapidly in the area, and, except for the site where the terrorist boat managed to get to shore, we could therefore safely allow all Israeli citizens to continue to enjoy the holiday, to sunbathe and swim in the sea, knowing that we could provide good protection.

Naturally, rumors are spread in such a case: There was talk in Ashdod of the landing of terrorists, of a car with terrorists. We in fact knew ... we, the group with me here who were in the area while the forces were engaged in searches, knew that the chance of there being anything to these rumors was very slim. Still, we treat every rumor seriously until we can discount it. But we already knew that none of the terrorists managed to get farther from the beach.

Finally, let me tell the public in the State of Israel: There is no hermetical seal, but there is still a very good seal, with depth both at sea and from the air, and the ability to react very rapidly even if an enemy force reaches land.

I want to point out—and I would like the intelligence chief to address himself to this later—what we found in the boats which indicated the terrorists' destination. There is a very nice picture of the Tel Aviv beach, near the marina. It was this beach, full of people enjoying themselves, that was this squad's main target. Our role is to allow people to lead normal lives, even when such an incident takes place, to extend the necessary protection to all Israeli citizens.

Shamir's Office Comments

TA3005153890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1440 GMT 30 May 90

["Statement" issued by the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 30 May]

[Text] The prime minister and defense minister congratulate the defense forces on the great success in foiling a terrorist attempt at the mass murder of innocent civilians. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the police, and the rest of the security forces again proved their high alertness and their excellent professional ability. The PLO, on its part, has again pointed out the fact that despite repeated assurances, 'Arafat, who declared he had supposedly given up terror activities, has not for minute ceased engaging in terror, and planning and organizing operations of mass killing and destruction that are, of course, aimed at Israel. This operation is evidence for all our enemies that Israel always will know how to overcome their criminal schemes.

Arens: Attack 'PLO Action'

TA3005164390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1405 GMT 30 May 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Dov Gilhar on 30 May; place not given—recorded; first paragraph is announcer introduction]

[Text] [Announcer] Let us hear Foreign Minister Moshe Arens' initial reaction as told to Dov Gilhar:

[Arens] Well, the PLO from time to time manages to convince people in the world, and perhaps in Israel as well, that it has stopped terrorist activity. Still, as the saying goes, one cannot fool all the people all the time. Today we had the proof of an attempt at a large-scale and murderous action by Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], one of the PLO leaders who is well-known to us. It seems this was one of three components of the PLO offensive: One was summoning the Security Council in Geneva and 'Arafat's appearance before it; the second was the Arab summit in Baghdad hosted by Saddam Husayn; the third was the attempt to carry out a terrorist act here in Israel. This third one failed, and I am extending congratulations to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the police on this. I hope the first two will also fail.

[Gilhar] Do you make a direct connection between the man Yasir 'Arafat, who talks of peace so to speak, and today's incident?

[Arens] There is no doubt about that. Abu-al-'Abbas is one of the honorable PLO leaders and is also close to 'Arafat. There is no doubt, there should be no doubt whatsoever, that this is a PLO action.

[Gilhar] Minister Arens, do you believe there is a link between the Rishon Leziyyon murders and this operation? Was this operation carried out in reaction to the murders, or did the terrorists wait for such an opportunity to carry out their operation?

[Arens] I cannot tell you this with certainty, but I do not think there is a link, since it is to be assumed such an operation requires a relatively long period of preparation. Therefore, I assume preparations and training for this operation began long before the Rishon Leziyyon incident.

[Gilhar] Foreign Minister Arens, the United States has long conducted a dialogue with the PLO. What will you tell your Washington colleagues after such an operation?

[Arens] Well, I believe words are not necessary here. We know the State Department representatives went through a very hard interrogation in Congress a week ago, when congressmen claimed there is evidence the PLO is engaged in terror and asked why the State Department ignores PLO participation in terror activities. I assume, I hope, that this incident will convince the U.S. Administration officials.

[Gilhar] Will you have a talk with the U.S. Administration on this shortly?

[Arens] We maintain regular contacts with the U.S. Administration. As I told you, it seems to me words are unnecessary on this subject; the facts speak for themselves.

[Gilhar] In your opinion, has the peace process suffered a significant setback, or was there no connection between the PLO's remarks and acts and the peace process?

[Arens] We have said for a long time now that the main obstacle to the promotion of the peace process is the PLO. Such a PLO operation does not influence the peace process, since the PLO is the obstacle to the peace process in any case.

Intelligence Chief Comments

TA3005174690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1333 GMT 30 May 90

[Opening statement by Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of intelligence, to news conference at Bet Sokolov Press Club in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] I will give you a few details about the organization behind this operation, where its people were prepared for this action, and what their terror targets were. These people belong to the Palestine Liberation Front, commanded by Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas]. Abu-al-'Abbas is officially called the secretary general of the organization. Beyond the duties he has within his own organization, he is, among other things, a member of the

PLO's Executive Committee, the PLO Central Council, the Palestinian leadership's committee, and of course, also a member of the Palestinian National Council.

The force was prepared in Libya for the perpetration of this mass killing action. To the best of our knowledge so far, all preparations were made in Libya. The equipment for the terrorist act was put together there. The training and the briefings for it were also carried out there, and Abu-al-'Abbas accompanied the terrorist force until it actually set out to sea.

The goals of the force were to strike the area of the Tel Aviv hotels, to carry out what we call mass killing—to simply come and kill people. On the boats they carried large amounts of equipment, including Katyushas, personal arms and pistols with silencers, hand grenades, machine guns, Katyushas [Shahaq repeats himself], and even Strella anti-aircraft missiles.

The Abu-al-'Abbas organization has taken part in several incidents in the past. The last incident perpetrated by this organization was the hijacking of the Achille Lauro ship. The first incident, I believe, was on 21 April 1979 in Nahariyya, resulting in the killing of four civilians, including the 'Aran family. In March 1981, the organization perpetrated another terrorist action: A squad flew two hang gliders over Haifa Bay and was captured. Another attack, or attempted attack, was in the Manara area, using a balloon which was intercepted by our forces. The Achille Lauro terrorist act took place on 7 October 1985. In this incident we see a repetition of an act which is reminiscent of what happened with the Tavirus ship [not further specified] a few years ago.

As you heard, the forces split up along the way after encountering technical difficulties, and to the best of our knowledge did not manage to achieve the goals they set for themselves. That is all we have now. Thank you.

Army Leaders Answer Questions

TA3005190690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1339 GMT 30 May 90

[Question-and-answer portion of news conference with Chief of Staff Dan Shomron, Navy Commander Mikha Ram, and Intelligence Chief Amnon Shahaq, at Bet Sokolov Press Club in Tel Aviv—live]

[Excerpts] [Uri Paz, IDF Radio] Mr. Chief of Staff, is there a connection between the Rishon Leziyyon murder and this infiltration along Israel's coast? Also, was there prior intelligence information on an infiltration, or an attempt to infiltrate Israel's coast?

[Shomron] First, it is impossible to prepare such an operation in a few days. Therefore, there is surely no direct link between such an operation and the murder in Rishon Leziyyon.

As for prior information, I want to tell you that our coastal defense system is on the alert all the time, knowing that such attempts can take place at any time, since the motivation to carry them out is very high.

[Eytan Rabin, HA'ARETZ] How does it happen that a large group of terrorists can approach the coast where civilians are present, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] does not intercept this group? This naturally caused panic and generated rumors among the civilians on the coast.

[Shomron] Our system, which is very good, is more dense in areas with denser population, and is less dense—although it has the same components—in areas which are not populated, such as the beach where the boat landed. It landed on an entirely deserted beach. Still, when it landed there, it did not surprise anyone. It was already being shadowed by a Navy ship which opened fire at it, by a plane overhead, and by assault helicopters which were on the way. The helicopters arrived immediately upon the boat's landing, and prevented them from advancing inland to carry out a terrorist act. Clearly, if we want to maintain a very dense system in all areas, it would entail a much greater investment. We have, as I said, a very reliable system, consisting of many components, deployed in more densely and less densely populated areas accordingly.

[Dan Raviv, Israel Television] Mr. Chief of Staff, to what extent are we talking here about a new phase of terrorist activity toward Israel, and of Libyan involvement which is expressed in a very practical way here? To what extent, if any, do we have military, retaliatory measures to use against Libya and the terrorist organizations which have revealed here an attempt at a very massive action? Are we talking about a new stage that has perhaps emerged as a result of the absence of a political solution in the region?

[Shomron] I do not want to link political solutions to this. I can say Libya enables terrorist organizations to train, organize, and set out for operations from its territory. This is not a new phase. This was the case in the past, too. The last activity of this type was the Tavirus [not further specified] incident which took place in April 1985, I believe. That attempt, to do something similar, also failed thanks to our forces, of course, thanks to the Navy. Therefore, I do not view this as a new phase. This is simply the implementation of an act after years of the absence of such an act.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is any military threat hanging over Libya? [IDF Radio reporter says here the chief of staff did not answer this question] [passage omitted]

[Dan Levi, Arabic Television] Chief of Staff, should we link the timing of this attempt to reach Israel's coast with the deliberations of the Baghdad summit? Second, should this attempt be directly linked with Yasir 'Arafat? Third, is the only link with Egypt the fact the mother ship continued to Port Said?

[Shomron] Let me start from the end. I do not know what the Egyptian connection is. The Egyptians may have no idea such a ship took part in an attempt to kill civilians in the

State of Israel. I assume Egypt did not know about this at all, and may not know even until this very moment. Second, is this linked to the summit meeting? I do not know how long it takes to prepare such an operation. If its preparation is very long, it may have started before this summit meeting was set. [passage omitted]

[Levi] Chief of Staff, I did not receive an answer to the third question I asked: From the terrorists' debriefing, do we know Yasir 'Arafat or the team close to him knew about this anti-Israeli action?

[Shomron] I cannot say this. I do not think those we debriefed know either. I can say with certainty the head of the Palestine Liberation Front belongs in the PLO system. As was said here before, he is also a member of the Palestinian National Council and the PLO's Executive Committee. I do not know how Yasir 'Arafat and this guy meet and talk there, but he is part of the leading and active PLO system. [passage omitted]

[Levi] According to the information we possess, are there active bases in Libya which serve the terrorists independently, or do they receive aid directly from the Libyans themselves?

[Shahaq] There are terrorists from various organizations in Libya, with the Libyans' knowledge. To the best of my understanding, this force was prepared for the terrorist act by the Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] Palestine Liberation Front, and I assume we will have more details in the future. Still, the organization prepared the action on Libyan territory. In my estimation, the Libyans, at least some of them, surely knew what was at stake.

Shamir Hails IDF Action

TA3005193090 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 May 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Yig'al Goren in the studio—live]

[Text] [Goren] Good evening Mr. Prime Minister. You were constantly briefed about the incident during the day. You watched the reports on it with us now as well. What is your reaction to what you saw?

[Shamir] Well, I think Israel's citizens had a special experience today: Several bloodthirsty terrorists wanted to turn our day of festival into a day of mourning. But, thanks to Israel's watchmen who stood guard, they did not succeed. This time too, as in many cases in the past, our watchmen frustrated this scheme, overcame the terrorists, killed some of them, and detained the others. The large-scale operation prepared by the Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] organization ended in total failure.

[Goren] Mr. Prime Minister, there are again reports about the involvement of Libya as the element serving as a point of departure for terrorists, and actively supporting anti-Israel terror. Can Israel act to prevent this repeated phenomenon?

[Shamir] Well, as is known, Israel constantly acts to prevent terrorist activity, and, fortunately, is successful in doing so. This operation, as described by the Army representatives, was prepared over long months, and it seems this Abu-al-'Abbas organization, which has a special inclination toward naval operations, apparently believed that this would be a gigantic action. It failed thanks to the alertness and planning of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and this will be the case in the future as well.

[Goren] How about Libya's involvement?

[Shamir] Well, we are aware of this, we know this. Other countries in the world also know Libya aids terrorist organizations and activities. We will have to take this into consideration.

[Goren] Mr. Prime Minister, there are diverse reactions to the incident. Do you share the assessment the new government which will be set up—and we all hope it will be set up soon—might indeed manage to reduce the number of terrorist activities against Israel through a renewal of the political process?

[Shamir] The war against terror should continue regardless of this or that political move. We know we are faced with the constant danger of terrorist actions. It is a fact that an organization which is part of the PLO—which supports political activity, as it were—is engaged in terror, in full force and with unusual efforts. Therefore, we should continue with the elimination of terror, as well as with political activity.

[Goren] In conclusion, Mr. Prime Minister, since the chance of the Likud forming a narrow government under your leadership is not great, there are an increased number of reports over the last two days of a strong tendency to begin contacts or talks for a national unity government. Can you confirm these reports?

[Shamir] There are various rumors all the time. We are making an effort to set up a government in the framework of time accorded us by the president of the state. I indeed hope there will be a government in Israel even before this time elapses.

[Goren] What about reports on a possible national unity, a national emergency government?

[Shamir] This possibility has always existed, ever since I formed the first national unity government.

[Goren] Thank you very much for coming to our studio, Mr. Prime Minister.

Rabin, Peres, Basyuni Comment

TA3005202290 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 May 90

[By political correspondent Yig'al Goren]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening expressed appreciation for the security forces foiling the terrorist action. Yitzhaq

Rabin notes that for 10 years now, terrorists have failed to enter Israel from the sea, despite numerous attempts. Mr. Rabin views Libya as a full partner to the terrorist action. Also, according to Rabin, Egypt should be required to detain the ship and its terrorists if they enter its territory. Mr. Rabin also notes the Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] organization, like Nayif Hawatimah's, never gave up terrorist activity. Therefore, today's action constitutes nothing new. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 30 May adds: "Former Defense Minister Rabin said Israel had known for several months the Abu-al-'Abbas organization was planning a terrorist action in Israel."

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 30 May also quotes Rabin saying that, "Contrary to a similar terrorist attempt six years ago, this time intelligence was not able to locate the vessel which served as the mother ship. Therefore, it was necessary to act rapidly upon the detection of the boats themselves, and it was impossible to strike at the mother ship."]

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres thanked the security forces for their excellent operation, and called for ongoing alertness against this constant threat of terrorist activity. At the same time, Mr. Peres emphasized, this should not prevent us from aiming for a thorough change of the political situation, and reaching peace negotiations. The terrorists, Peres said, will not cause the peace process to stop.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 30 May adds that "Egypt's ambassador in Israel, Muhammad Basyuni, says his country condemns any type of terrorist act, regardless of its source. He noted terrorist acts do not contribute to a solution of the Palestinian problem, but rather harm the peace process. He emphasized the need to renew the political process."]

Debriefings; Ship Not Found

TA3005203290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Debriefings are currently under way in the Navy and Air Force to check how the various forces operated today. Military sources say the decision not to immediately open fire at the terrorists on Nizzanim coast was made due to the presence of vacationers in the area. It was clear an unequivocal and precise identification of the terrorists was necessary. The first order given to the helicopter overflying the terrorists was to fire warning volleys near them, and to continue only when their reaction was ascertained. The timing and identification were made with a great deal of caution, the sources emphasized to our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Another question: Where is the mother ship? It is already clear the speedboats were launched from the mother ship at a very great distance from the shore, therefore requiring refueling on the way. Neither the refueling boat, nor the mother ship which was sailing toward Egypt, have yet been located.

Shamir on Arab Summit, UN Meeting, Egypt's Role

PM3005140290 Paris LE FIGARO in French 26-27 May 90 p 2

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Stephane Marchand—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Marchand] The Arab summit which begins in Baghdad on Monday promises to be difficult for Israel. Do you think the risk of war in the Near East now is greater?

[Shamir] It is true the Arab summit seems to be extremely anti-Israeli, but that is not new. Almost all Arab summits have been directed against Israel. No voice of peace has ever been addressed to my country. Having said that, I do not think war is any closer, because I cannot see any underlying reason why a state in the region would start one. But, of course, if anyone is absolutely determined to fight a war in this region, he can achieve his goal, because it only takes one side to decide to start a war. However, it takes at least two sides to make peace. [passage omitted]

[Marchand] For some weeks, Iraq has been making aggressive statements. Beyond what level of threat could Israel decide to launch a preemptive attack?

[Shamir] We do not want war, we want peace. We hope these threats do not herald war, but threats in themselves can become a factor which speeds up a dangerous process. The threats must stop.

[Marchand] Are you worried by the UN Security Council meeting on the situation in the occupied territories?

[Shamir] It serves no purpose. It is pointless. Such a meeting can only increase the tension, and that is not what is needed.

[Marchand] Is Eygpt, the only country at peace with Israel, playing enough of a moderating role?

[Shamir] The Egyptians think they can sell the whole world the idea they are a moderating influence in the Near East conflict. But, in my view, they are not doing enough in that respect. To truly play a moderating role, they must strengthen their links with us, and we cannot see any sign of that. Close cooperation between Egypt and Israel could be very useful. That is my advice to Mr. Mubarak. [passage omitted]

U.S. Urged To See 'Fact of PLO Terrorism'

TA3105101990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 May 90 p 4

[Editorial: "The Smoking Gun"]

[Text] The U.S. administration must be waiting to see Yasir 'Arafat in person toss a grenade into a crowded bus before it recognizes the fact of PLO terrorism. Instead of admitting, following yesterday morning's aborted terrorist attack on the coast north and south of Tel Aviv, that it had been a victim of wishful thinking, the administration hastened to announce that it would continue its dialogue with the PLO. It will be interesting to see how the administration reconciles this with its commitment to discontinue the talks should the PLO commit acts of terrorism or fail to condemn them.

The intended slaughter of bathers and vacationers on the Tel Aviv beach can hardly be called part of an "armed struggle" against military or police targets, nor can it be blamed on fringe groups, Syrian-controlled "rejectionists" or Iranian fanatics. The operation is nothing short of "smoking gun" evidence of 'Arafat's complicity in terrorism. Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], whose Front for the Liberation of Palestine executed it, is as close to 'Arafat as any operational PLO chieftain. He is a member of the PLO executive and central committee and of the Palestine National Council. He was seated next to 'Arafat when the establishment of the "State of Palestine" was declared in Algeria and he jovially bantered there with adoring correspondents about his previous proud achievement, the Achille Lauro hijacking, in which Leon Klinghoffer, a crippled American pensioner, was killed and tossed overboard. 'Abbas's first claim to a place in the PLO pantheon of heroism was staked in Nahariya in 1979, when one of his gunmen killed Smadar Haran's husband and little daughter. His present office is adjacent to 'Arafat's in the PLO's Tunisian headquarters. As one military analyst described it, "he is tied to 'Arafat by an umbilical cord."

Former Defence Minister Rabin said yesterday that Israel has known for months that Abu-al-'Abbas was preparing a spectacular operation. Complicated sea raids, Rabin explained, required months of planning. Thus even the most acrobatic minds would find it difficult to blame the operation on the temporary hiatus in the peace process, on Shamir's not saying "yes" to Baker, on the Israel government crisis, or on the killing in Rishon Leziyyon by an unbalanced young Israeli.

There will of course always be a chorus of sanctimonious observers who will rationalize such operations aimed at mass murder as inevitable responses to this or that Israeli "offence." But a far more likely prime motivation for Abu-al-'Abbas' boldness is the U.S. administration's continued willingness, abetted by a whole herd of 'Arafat groupies in the world's—and in Israel's—political and press circles, to deliberately ignore evidence of PLO terrorist activities and of 'Arafat's total disdain for his own commitments. The PLO leaders could not help but believe that in the prevailing atmosphere they could get away with the carnage planned for Tel Aviv. It is to be hoped that at least they were mistaken in assuming that Egypt, which has acted as a PLO middle-man in recent months, will give safe passage to the launch ship of their latest operation, as it did to the Achille Lauro hijackers.

The Israel Defence Forces and police merit heartfelt congratulations for intercepting and aborting what could have been a horrendous bloodbath. But strictly defensive measures cannot completely stop terrorist activities. Nor can yet another bombing of terrorist branch offices in Lebanon and the killing of a few field officers. And surely even those who fervently believe that the intifada will end when a "political solution" is found cannot seriously think that al-Qadhdhafi will be satisfied with any solution Israel can live with and cease his activities. The simple truth is that, as long as countries like Libya can host, assist, train, finance and help launch such raids with impunity, Israelis will be ready targets of terrorism.

The U.S. set an instructive precedent when it bombed al-Qadhdhafi's headquarters: That air raid caused a substantial reduction in his terrorist activities and virtually stopped his attacks on Americans. Israel, not enjoying the privileges of a superpower, can take such actions only as a last resort. But it is now obliged to muster all its diplomatic skills and political resources for a rigorous effort to rouse the world community to action against Libya and other sponsors of terrorism. If after yesterday's raid the world continues to pay no more than lip service to the war against terrorism, if it continues to conduct business as usual and enable countries which sponsor terrorism to develop advanced conventional and non-conventional war capabilities, Israel must draw the inevitable conclusions and act on its own to protect the lives of its citizens.

Knesset Committee Supports VOA Project Accord

TA2805102790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] The Knesset Finance Committee has said the U.S.- Israeli agreement on the construction of a Voice of America [VOA] relay station in the 'Arava should be honored. At the conclusion of a debate, the committee said the VOA project will augment economic activity in the Negev and the 'Arava and create hundreds of jobs.

Our correspondent Eytan Almog points out the committee stated the data it had received do not indicate any health hazards to the local population. At the same time, it demanded the related surveys and research be pursued to allay the people's anxiety.

Protest to Antigua Over Arms to Drug Cartel

TA2905153490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Israel's ambassador in Antigua protested to the Caribbean island's prime minister and foreign minister over the transfer of Israeli arms to private persons in a third country, despite a guarantee by the Antiguan defense minister.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan cites the Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem as saying Israel hopes the Antiguan Government investigates the matter speedily and thoroughly and reports to Israel on why a firm commitment was violated. The issue involved is an arms shipment, which according to several involved elements, was destined for the Antiguan Government, but instead reached leaders of the Colombian drug cartel.

King Comments on Summit, Unity With Saudi Arabia

JN3005161990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn returned home from Baghdad after leading the Jordanian delegation to the extraordinary Arab summit, which concluded its meetings in Baghdad at noon today. His majesty spoke to journalists upon arrival, saying:

[Begin recording] [Husayn] The summit was one of the most successful summits; it bodes well for the Arab march throughout the Arab homeland in these delicate circumstances and at this decisive stage in the life of our nation.

Praise be to God, the results are satisfactory in the fullest sense of the word.

[Reporter] What about the Arab support for Jordan, which is, in fact, support for the entire nation?

[Husayn] I believe there is something about this in the final statement, but I do not have the details. I am confident, however, that the brothers will respond to our needs, God willing. I cannot give you a specific figure.

[Reporter] It has been reported that Jordan will seek unity with Saudi Arabia? Is this correct?

[Husayn] We are unionists in our nature. These are the objectives of our ancestors, of this generation, and of future generations. I can say nothing about this at present. However, we are with our nation, from it, and for it. We in this position and on this long front line constitute a shield to protect our Arab nation. I believe that our brothers were put in the picture and were shown where their responsibilities lie. They support their cause, rights, the rights of the coming generations, and their land, and consequently, they want to enable Jordan to continue the role it has assumed here and which it will always perform with all its Arab brothers to confront all challenges and dangers. [end recording]

King Addresses Editors on Summit, Expected Aid

JN3105090590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 May-1 Jun 90 pp 1, 5

[By Mahmud al-Kayid and George Hawatimah]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has hailed as "highly successful" the emergency Arab summit which ended in Baghdad yesterday and said that Jordan's views and positions on various issues had received full understanding and due support from all Arab leaders attending the summit.

"I believe the results of the summit have been extremely positive and encouraging," His Majesty told Jordanian newspaper editors at a working dinner late Tuesday night. "The summit as a whole was highly successful," he said.

"Furthermore," the King said, "Jordan's long-held views and positions on various issues facing the Arab World have been widely acclaimed and supported by our brothers meeting in Baghdad."

His Majesty said that, following his clear and frank message to the summit, the Arab leaders fully understood Jordan's economic and financial problems and pledged to do all they could to support the Kingdom's security and steadfastness.

"Our Arab brothers realise fully the heavy burden and the great responsibilities that Jordan carries and shoulders as a frontline state," he said. "Consequently they have pledged strong support for Jordan's security as part of pan-Arab security and strength."

"A political decision has been taken to support Jordan financially, economically and politically," His Majesty said. "Very soon, we should be entering the stage of translating the political will of our Arab brothers in the Gulf into solid and practical steps to enable the Kingdom to continue playing its crucial role in protecting the Arab World from its enemies and all designs and schemes against it," His Majesty said.

The King did not go into details of Jordan's needs at the present, but a senior aide to His Majesty said that the Kingdom expected that forthcoming financial assistance from Gulf countries should be much larger than the $360 million envisaged as Arab financial assistance in the 1990 budget.

Government sources have been estimating that Jordan needed about $1 billion a year for several years to maintain an acceptable level of military preparedness and economic health, taking into account as well the servicing of its foreign debts which total $8 billion.

The senior aide dismissed as "speculation" all figures of expected financial assistance mentioned or reported during or immediately after the Baghdad summit. "As His Majesty said, as of now there is only a political decision to support Jordan financially, basically by Saudi Arabia, and the other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council," he stressed. "Facts and figures are not yet worked out, but we should be going into these discussions pretty soon."

He said that the King had no alternative but to deliver his strongly-worded speech to the summit after all previous attempts to obtain financial assistance had gone nowhere.

"Israel is plotting to change Jordan from a stronghold into crack in the Arab front," the King said in his speech to the summit on Monday. "We need your support now, not to tomorrow, not in the future," he stressed.

"Jordan had reached its highest point of tolerance, and the King had to send his loud and clear message during the summit," the aide said. "Fortunately the Arab leaders responded with urgency and enthusiasm, and for that we are grateful," he added.

A senior Jordanian official paid tribute to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and his efforts to enforce Jordan's message to the summit. "President Husayn deserves full appreciation and respect for his extremely important role in driving our message home," the official said. "His understanding of Jordan's position and its organic relationship to pan-Arab security, and his wisdom and courage in handling the issue of support for Jordan by the wealthier Arab states made all the difference," the official said.

In his dinner with the editors, the King sounded encouraged and optimistic not only about expected Arab support for Jordan but also about the meaning of holding the summit and the institutionalisation of Arab summitry as a whole.

"The fact that the summit was held at all, at this point in time when the Arabs are facing grave threats and dangers, means a lot," the King said. "For Arab leaders to talk to each other, amicably and frankly and with goodwill, is infinitely better than talking at each other or not talking at all. The way to solve inter-Arab problems and tackle dangers and challenges facing all of us is best done through meeting each other and talking under one ceiling," he said.

"In this respect at least the summit in Baghdad is a big achievement."

The King lauded the conference's resolution to regularise Arab summit meetings is an important step towards institutionalising them. "It is very significant and encouraging to have the Arab leaders agree on meeting in an ordinary session at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo every year," he said.

"This should help us avoid many problems of the past where Arab countries often disagree on the venue and timing of their meetings and in the process hindered common Arab action and joint moves he added.

"This way summitry can be institutionalised and its work, whether on the preparatory level or in terms of results, can always ensure success."

Badran Rejects Reports on Unity With Saudis

JN3105072590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 31 May 90 pp 1, 20

[Excerpts] Amman—Prime Minister Mudar Badran has told reporters the Arab brothers understand Jordan's situation as explained clearly by His Majesty King Husayn to the Arab summit. [passage omitted]

Badran denied the reports propagated by the foreign media on Jordan's request to establish unity with Saudi Arabia. He noted that this issue was not discussed at all, neither in the summit nor in the bilateral talks. We did not propose such a thing in the first place. [passage omitted]

Badran on Summit, King's 'Possible' Libya Visit

JN3005211090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran has told reporters the Arab brothers understand Jordan's situation as explained clearly and honestly by His Majesty King Husayn in his speech to the Arab summit. He said the Arab leaders' response was good, and they promised His Majesty King Husayn never to abandon Jordan and also reaffirmed firm support for Jordan. Replying to a question on whether Arab support will include military aid, Badran answered that military support was not discussed during the conference, but, naturally, all Arab countries are always ready to extend the required support to any Arab state that comes under aggression.

On the effect of Syria's absence from the summit, the prime minister said: All the Arab leaders hoped that Syria would attend the summit in order to open a new page and turn the old one. This is what happened when Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi came to the conference, where he displayed solidarity and agreement with all resolutions, and he was fully welcomed by the conference, especially by Iraq. Badran indicated that the principle of resuming Jordan's relations with Libya was approved in the past. He indicated that the Jordanian Embassy is ready and a Jordanian ambassador will go to assume his duties there.

Badran said it was possible that His Majesty King Husayn would pay a visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah at the invitation of his brother His Excellency Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Regarding the summit's position on the United States, Badran said that everyone was disappointed with U.S. policy, including those states that maintain good relations of friendship with the United States. He said: The United States was expected to lean in favor of what is right, not in favor of Israel, where the Palestinian people's rights are usurped and international laws on human rights are completely lacking. He indicated that human rights in the Soviet Union must not be at the expense of the Palestinian citizens on their soil. He said: This was discussed in detail during the summit and was clearly referred to in the final statement. Badran added that the content of the final statement was unanimously approved by all leaders and no party expressed reservations about it.

Hizballah's Al-Musawi Discusses FRG Hostages

LD3005173890 Hamburg DPA in German 1705 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Ba'labakk (DPA)—The two FRG citizens kidnapped in Lebanon, Heinrich Struebig (49) and Thomas Kemptner (29), were kidnapped by members of the family of the aircraft hijacker Muhammad 'Ali Hamadi, who is imprisoned in Frankfurt. This was confirmed on Wednesday by the leader of the Lebanese Shiite organization, Hizballah, Husayn al-Musawi. In an interview with DPA, Al-Musawi said in Ba'labakk, which is 84 km from Beirut: West Germany has no quarrel with anyone in Lebanon other than with Hamadi's family. He said that the government in Bonn agreed to Hamadi's release in exchange for the two German hostages, Alfred Schmidt and Rudolf Cordes. After this promise was not kept, apparently the Hamadi clan carried out the kidnapping in a new attempt to obtain the release of Hamadi, who is serving a life term in Frankfurt.

Hamadi's older brother belongs to the leading members of Hizballah. However, so far no organization in Lebanon has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of Struebig and Kemptner. The two men, who work for the private Marburg aid organization ASME-Humanitas, were kidnapped on 16 May last year, the eve of the announcement of the sentence against Hamadi.

'Awn Meets With Hubayqah, West Beirut Leader

NC3005113290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] AL-SAFIR newspaper says in today's edition that a delegation from the pro-'Awn Lebanese Front has made a secret visit to West Beirut. The delegation met with Elie Hubayqah [former chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee].

AL-SAFIR adds that a prominent leader in West Beirut sent a leading figure, with whom he has connections, to meet with General Michel 'Awn.

Palestinians, Lebanese on 'Maximum' Alert in South

NC3105081690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 31 May 90

[Text] According to security sources in Sidon, a state of maximum alert has been declared by the Palestinians and Lebanese resistance fighters, particularly along the Kafr Falus frontlines. This precautionary step follows the daring fedayeen operation near Tel Aviv yesterday.

The same sources said that four Israeli warplanes flew at low altitude over Sidon and Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning. Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats were seen cruising off the al-Zahrani coast, south of Sidon.

Israeli Planes Overfly Sidon; Alert Declared

NC3005170590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes have been flying over the city of Sidon and the Palestinian camps since 1830. A general alert has been declared among the nationalists and Palestinian resistance ranks.

[At 1530 GMT on 30 May, Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic reported that Israeli planes carried out mock raids over Sidon "at dawn" on 30 May]

Explosion Reported at Al-Yarzah Defense Ministry

NC3005181290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1745 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] An explosion at the Defense Ministry headquarters in al-Yarzah was heard tonight, but no other details are yet available.

However, the Honor, Sacrifice, and Loyalty Organization announced that one of its units blew up an ammunition depot storing 105- and 120-mm shells belonging to Company 854 of Battalion 85 in the al-Naqqash area at 1600 on 27 May. The explosion, according to the organization, resulted in the death of First Lieutenant Jean Haddad and wounding of four noncommissioned officers and soldiers. Moreover, 600 150- and 120-caliber shells were destroyed.

The organization also declared that one of its units planted an explosive device at the headquarters of the striking force in al-Fayyadiyah. The device went off, killing four military personnel including Chief Warrant Officer Hasan Fayyad. The organization warned First Lieutenant Daniel Da'bul, who is commander of the al-Naqqash artillery force, and the other officers and members of the striking force that they will be an easy target for its future operations.

Israeli Forces Concentrations Reported in South

NC3105054290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 May 90

[Text] According to reports from the south, the Israeli forces have massed tank and troop concentrations along the border strip over the past few hours. The reports added that columns of tanks carried on trailers were spotted moving from the Dan settlement toward the occupied border areas over the past 24 hours amid intensive helicopter overflights.

Gunfire in Eastern Area, Desertions Reported

NC3105064990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 31 May 90

[Text] There were cease-fire violations on the eastern area's combat lines last night. The two warring parties exchanged sniper and mortar fire.

According to reports from the north, tension was created when the Phalangist [Lebanese] Forces besieged the villages of Tannurin, Harajil, and al-'Aqurah. The reports said that the villages were surrounded after some Lebanese Forces members deserted and returned to their villages. The Lebanese Forces' military police entered the villages in pursuit of the deserters. The villagers, however, confronted the forces and prevented them from making any arrests. Following some contacts, the Lebanese Forces gunmen withdrew from the villages.

Officials Discuss Results of Arab Summit

Al-Husayni: Message 'Good'

NC3005161090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Today President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni discussed the atmosphere of the Arab summit and evaluated its results. Al-Hirawi discussed the same issue with Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss who later today separately received Economy and Trade Minister Dr. Nazih al-Bizri and French Ambassador Rene Ala and reviewed with them Lebanese, Arab, and international developments.

Following his visit to President al-Hirawi, Speaker al-Husayni said that the trend now is to implement the security plan in greater Beirut, not only in the western part of the capital. He emphasized that all organs concerned are now preparing to take serious steps in this direction. He reiterated his belief that we are close to a solution to the crisis.

Speaker al-Husayni described the message of Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz as good. He considered any emergence of any inter-Arab disagreement as being against the tone of the current stage. He stressed that it is impossible for some to continue to live in humiliation because of differences among others.

Al-Huss Expresses 'Satisfaction'

NC3005174090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has expressed satisfaction with the Baghdad Arab summit's results pertaining to Lebanon. He said that these results correspond with our aspirations during the present stage.

Answering a question from REUTER, Prime Minister al-Huss lauded the efforts which the higher Arab committee exerted to reach these results. He expressed Lebanon's readiness to cooperate with the committee and fraternal Syria in everything which would lead to the end of our present tribulation.

Syrian Forces Resume W. Beirut Security Measures

NC3105114490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 May 90

[Text] The Syrian Arab Forces resumed their security measures in West Beirut and in parts of the Southern Suburb to eliminate tension and restore calm to the areas which were the scenes of recent tension and clashes. They reinforced their personnel and presence in the areas of the municipal playground, Abu-Shakir, the Arab University, the 'Abd-al-Nasir Mosque, Corniche al-Mazra'ah, Abu-Haydar, and al-Ma'mun Street. They confiscated large quantities of weapons and arrested a number of gunmen.

According to a Syrian security source, the Syrian Forces have begun implementing strict security measures in the areas of Khaldah, Normande, the Airport Road, and the approaches to and the inner quarters of the Southern Suburb. The measures aim to quell any show of force and confiscate any weapons even if they are carried with a license.

The source added that the Syrian Forces have been instructed to open fire at any gunman and then inform his organization. They will respond severely to any security violation, according to the source.

'Awn on Truce, Domestic Issues, U.S. Ties

JN3105083190 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 29 May 90 pp 18, 19

[Interview with General Michel 'Awn by 'Umaral-Sabahi at the B'abda palace in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Umral-Sabahi] There is presently a security truce in East Beirut. Is this truce a permanent one and part of a solution? Or is it a temporary one linked to the convening of the Arab summit and dictated by the good relations between the two parties to the conflict in East Beirut; that is, between you and the [Lebanese] Forces on the one hand and Baghdad, on the other?

['Awn] I do not believe that this is the reason the cease-fire is holding. Besides, military action is not an isolated thing. Dialogue is preferred to military action when it leads to the political outcome sought by the launching of military action. This policy line is accepted by world states and here too. If we attain a political outcome and not only a security truce through negotiations, this would be better than the return to guns, which destroy and ruin. This has always been my policy.

['Umral-Sabahi] Are we to understand from this that Gen. 'Awn is optimistic about reaching a solution through this truce?

['Awn] Every security flareup results in the emergence of a new political situation and a new balance of forces. Many new developments have taken place. I am here referring to the summit held by Christian religious leaders and also to the parliamentary elections in Syria. In the wake of these elections, the Syrian policy on Lebanon might be reconsidered. All of these reasons are not only a cause for adopting a wait-and-see attitude, but for making quiet moves amid these thorny issues. This requires that we allow a period of quiet to prevail. Perhaps, we might use this period to reach a desirable solution. I am here talking about the Lebanese citizen again being protected by the state, which should uphold its own laws. Lebanon's salvation will not be realized by the militias and forces which have fragmented it. I have repeatedly said and insisted that no powerful state can emerge in Lebanon in the presence of militias. [passage omitted]

['Umral-Sabahi] It is rumored that your conversion of pounds to dollars in order to make some logistical and military purchases was behind the rise in the exchange rate of the dollar.

['Awn] Do not believe this. These are sheer lies. We are bringing in aid to cover the shortage here. This means that we are bolstering the Lebanese pound. We are bringing in dollars and spending them here. This covers the existing shortage of dollars.

['Umral-Sabahi] General, where does the aid to you come from?

['Awn] The important thing is that it comes. Let it come from heaven. I have no objection. They earlier spoke of a Paris bank account. We are currently using this bank account to spend money. We do not spend money from the treasury. We are bringing in funds and not spending treasury money. We have not bought ammunition or military equipment using the Bank of Lebanon funds. We have not asked the Bank of Lebanon to foot any bills. How then can they say that we are causing a rise in the exchange rate of the dollar?

['Umral-Sabahi] Sorry, the reference is to your conversion of frozen funds, and not to funds disbursed by the Bank of Lebanon.

['Awn] Where are the frozen funds? If you collect one billion pounds and spend the same amount, nothing remains to be frozen. We bring in some six billion pounds—approximately $10 million—from outside Lebanon every month through loans, aid, and other means. [passage omitted]

['Umral-Sabahi] The Arab tripartite committee has decided to intensify pressure on the Vatican and France to make them tackle the issue of Gen. 'Awn. Do you expect pressures in this regard? And where will such pressures be directed?

['Awn] I have read about this in the newspapers. I have nothing to add to these reports. I rule out any new pressures. If the tripartite committee insists on applying pressure, this means they are determined to remain unfair. It also shows a desire not to learn from what has happened. They have seen the impact of the 240- and 155-mm gun shells. If they are determined to continue to deal with us unfairly, I would like to say that this is rejected. They have to understand the situation and reconsider their position. To recognize that mistakes have been made is a virtue. Infallibility is a trait only of God. French philosopher Corneille says: "No matter how great are the leaders, they make mistakes just like other people." We are against those who believe themselves to be infallible and who will never, under any circumstances, go back on a decision they have made. We believe that they make mistakes, just like other people. I do not say that their mistakes are prompted by lack of goodwill. No, I would say that their mistakes might have been prompted by the unavailability of certain facts. If they reconsider their stands, we would welcome this. But if they seek to impose a solution on us, we would like to tell them again that the solution might crush us but it will not obtain our endorsement [of the al-Ta'if agreement]. We are ready for a dialogue on the basis of reconsidering their previous stands toward us. As for pressures, they can apply whatever pressure they like. Do they want to deploy fleets? Let them do that. Let them come and kill us. They are most welcome. That is, if deployment of the fleet is all that is needed. Let them send us aircraft to hit us. [passage omitted]

['Umral-Sabahi] The relationship between Gen. 'Awn and the Americans was initially good and then deteriorated. There was a U.S. cooperation office at the Ministry of Defense. Now, there are offices for enmity. What is behind this change of heart?

['Awn] When one discovers that the game is directed against his homeland and its entity, he is bound to take the proper measure. They were upset by our positions. That is why they packed up and left. We told them that they were pushing us to our death and not to salvation. They were not convinced. Consequently, they intensified pressure on us and viewed us as rebels, as if we were a rebellious division within their own army.

['Umral-Sabahi] Do you believe that your differences with the Americans are one of the reasons for your war with the [Lebanese] Forces?

['Awn] Yes, they have encouraged this in declared stands expressed by Ambassador McCarthy and State Department spokespersons. They instigated the Lebanese people to revolt against Gen. 'Awn. They also incited the Lebanese Forces, which ignited the spark. And thus, developments ensued. However, the Lebanese people showed unity and refuted the theory created by the Lebanese themselves, that the Lebanese people can only be merchants and lovers of money. As for the Americans, they have chosen a group of merchants and portrayed them as representatives of the Lebanese people. This group is buying and selling. However, it becomes impotent when external help is withheld. Their story is similar to that of the employees who are asked to make a pledge of allegiance before they are paid. They [the Americans] are humiliating them at the hands of an agent who mistakenly thinks himself to be the image of authority. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Visits Al-Asad, Discusses Arab Summit

Received at Airport

JN3005165990 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 30 May (SANA)—Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, arrived in Damascus at 1830 today.

President Hafiz al-Asad led those receiving him at Damascus international airport.

Also receiving him at the aircraft steps were Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

President Mubarak, after introducing the members of his official delegation to the president, shook hands with the deputies of the prime minister and the ministers receiving him.

The two presidents held an expanded meeting attended on the Syrian Arab side by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. On the Arab Egyptian side, the meeting was attended by 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first secretary at the Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

The two leaders then held a closed session.

Holds Closed Meeting

NC3005171390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1638 GMT 30 May 90

[Excerpts] Damascus, 30 May (MENA)—Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad held a closed meeting in Damascus this evening immediately after President Mubarak's arrival at Damascus International Airport from Baghdad.

The meeting was held at Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

Mubarak's visit to the Syrian capital takes place at the end of the Baghdad extraordinary summit, which ended today. It is President Mubarak's second visit to Syria in one month.

The president had asked Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Dr. Usamah al-Baz to convey a message to President al-Asad before the Baghdad extraordinary summit in a bid to narrow the gap in Syrian-Iraqi relations.

Briefs Al-Asad on Summit

JN3005212490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 May 90

[Excerpts] Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, arrived in Damascus at 1830 today. [passage omitted]

The talks centered on the Arab situation in general and bilateral issues. Mubarak briefed the president on the proceedings of the extraordinary summit held in Baghdad as part of the continuous contacts and consultations between the two presidents.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN3005175890 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, left Damascus at 1945 today. President Hafiz al-Asad led those seeing him off at Damascus International Airport. Also present to see Mubarak off at the aircraft steps were Vice President 'Abd-al- Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus, the deputies prime minister, and ministers.

U.S. Position on Fact-finding Mission 'Devious'

JN2605170590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 May 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The U.S. bias toward the Zionist enemy does not need to be proven. The United States, which pretends to want to push the peace process forward in the region is not at all serious about this peace. Also, it is neither effective nor influential because of its stands, practices, and policies toward Israel, which, it has become clear, is obstructing and rejecting peace in part and parcel. If the United States is seriously working for peace, then it is only because it seeks to bring about the peace desired by Israel, a peace based on the continuation of occupation, the denial of the Palestinian people's rights, crushing and liquidating the intifadah, and providing Israel with the appropriate opportunities and circumstances and U.S. political cover to kill more Arabs, establish settlements, and absorb Jewish emigrants. The United States also wants to supply it with more funds and arms so it can implement its expansionist schemes and plans of taking away Arab lands, rights, and aspirations.

Based on this, the United States seeks and works to save Israel from the impasse of the intifadah and to end its international political isolation by acquitting it of the crimes and massacres it is perpetrating against Palestinian people and children in the occupied territories. When the United States rejects the idea of dispatching international observers to the occupied territories in order to prevent Israel from continuing its fascist and brutal practices, and when it justifies this rejection in a devious way by signaling the dispatch of a fact-finding mission, then by doing so, it supports and countenances Israeli intransigence against peace, and consequently backs the fascist and brutal Israeli practices. What is the fact-finding mission for? And why does the United States make and announce these peace proposals from time to time? Why is it evading a true, just, and comprehensive peace? The answers to these questions are always to be found in the United States' submission to Israeli desires and the Zionist lobby's pressure on U.S. policy, which only views the situation in the region through the eyes of Israel and Zionism. This does not only deprive the U.S. Administration of its political credibility, but also exposes its total bias toward Israel and against Arab rights, and against justice and peace.

From this premise, it was not surprising that the U.S. Congress, through a joint committee of the Senate and House of Representatives, has decided to extend $400 million in aid to Israel, aid allocated for the establishment of new settlements for new Soviet Jewish immigrants. The joint committee has also granted an immediate $5 million out of $75 million allocated to help the new Soviet Jewish immigrants. This immediate financial aid comes while the UN Security Council in Geneva is discussing the situation in the occupied Arab territories in light of the bloody massacre perpetrated last Sunday [20 May], and the brutal practices that followed it against Palestinian Arab citizens in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and the territories occupied in 1948 of Nazareth, Ramallah, and Haifa.

The United States—which has disavowed Baker's statements on sending international observers to the occupied territories by saying it was an issue that could be discussed—as a result of its submission to and adoption of the Israeli view, is trying now to weaken the UN Security Council's discussions, abort them and disrupt what these discussions could produce. It is doing this through signals whose objectives are clear, such as saying it is ready to discuss the sending of a UN mission, although under the innocuous name of a fact-finding mission. This means that, even if such a mission were dispatched, the United States would return to talk about disturbances and acts of violence, and expressions of regret that children in occupied Palestine are being killed as a result of this violence and the reactions that force Israeli forces to fire bullets and to kill children, women, and old people. The United States will only judge the current developments and events by Israeli criteria. Why is the Israeli gang able to prevent U.S. eyes from seeing the brutal and fascist practices in the occupied territories, and the Zionist enemy's massacres—and for how long? Has the time not come to prevent Israel from carrying out its repression and terrorism in front of the eyes and ears of the whole world while relying on U.S. support and Washington's bias in favor of the Israeli point of view?

Press on Intifadah Support, Washington Summit

JN3005220390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 May 90

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial, the newspaper AL-BA'TH stresses that the steadfastness of our people in Palestine, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon, and the continuation of their struggle against the Zionist occupation, reflect the enemy's fear and concern over the spread and continuation of our people's intifadah, because it views this as a serious threat to all its expansionist plans and the existence of its artificial entity.

AL-BA'TH says: Had the Arabs dealt with their enemy in the same way our people in the occupied homeland dealt with them, then undoubtedly, the Arab situation in general would have been different from what it is now.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: If the Arabs want to restore their rights in full, then they must study how they can support the continuation of the intifadah and help it spread throughout the occupied homeland, along with formulating a unified and integrated Arab plan to move in all directions.

In its comment headlined "The Arabs and Challenges," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The Zionist entity's rejection of the UN Security Council's proposal to dispatch a fact-finding mission to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the U.S. Administration's disavowal of this proposal—which it has enthusiastically made—and the disgraceful U.S. submission to the Zionist lobby's pressures in favor of the Israeli aggressors, prove once again that Washington never deviates from the Israeli view, or from adopting and supporting the enemy's course, its expansionist policy, and aggression.

In the "Behind the News" column, the newspaper TISHRIN deals with the Washington summit, which will be held tomorrow between Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush, and with the issues this summit will discuss, beginning with bilateral relations, disarmament, and the reunification of Germany. The paper says: This summit will be held while there still are several pending international issues, which were in fact further complicated by the blind U.S. bias toward Israel, issues such as the Middle East crisis.

The paper comments on Israel's terrorist policy and the current settlement operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, stressing that this summit, which is being held under circumstances of international detente, is required to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

Ministry Source on Election Results, 'Objections'

JN2705080590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 May 90

[Text] Damascus—An information source at the Ministry of the Interior has announced that the ministry has so far received the final returns from the provinces of al-Suwayda', al-Qunaytirah, al- Raqqah, al-Hasakah, Dar'a, Idlib, Hamah, Hims, Tartus, Damascus rural area, the city of Aleppo, and Dayr al-Zawr. The source stated that the central committees in al-Ladhiqiyah and Aleppo rural area are continuing to prepare their final lists.

The central committee in the Damascus province received objections from some candidates regarding the counting of results coming in from polling stations. New committees have been formed to investigate these objections and supervise the counting process. These new committees are working under the direct supervision of the interior minister and the Damascus province central committee. The necessary steps will be taken to deal with these objections and complaints if they are proved to be true, in accordance with the provisions of the general elections law.

Syrian Ministers, Djerejian on Mideast Peace

JN2505213190 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 24 May 90 p 13

[By Patrick Seale]

[Text] The massacres committed against Palestinians this week have triggered a furious wave of violence all over the Middle East. This, in turn, caused serious apprehension for Washington and the other Western capitals.

The disturbances that broke out in Jordan and the call by some Palestinian leaders for revenge and reembracing armed struggle made U.S. officials think, for the first time since the outbreak of the intifadah, that Israel is incapable of controlling the Palestinian intifadah, and that the situation might get out of control.

The imminent fear, however, is that a new wave of border infiltration and fierce attacks might escalate the situation to the brink of war.

According to reports from Washington, the Bush administration has called for a quick review of the situation, and has urged Israel and Arab countries to exercise the maximum degree of self-restraint, taking into consideration the precariousness of the situation.

Western officials say that the Middle East has once more occupied the top of the international agenda, and that it should occupy a prominent position in the talks of the two superpowers soon to be held.

Edward Djerejian, U.S. Ambassador to Syria, told AL-QABAS: "The Middle East is burning. The situation is deteriorating before our eyes."

The basic question posed by Arab and Western officials is: will the violent events of the week convince George Bush and his secretary of state, James Baker, to change the current direction of U.S. Middle East policy, which has come under widespread criticism for being "greatly lacking and far behind?"

Throughout the past year, the United States has concentrated all its efforts to secure direct bilateral talks in Cairo between Israel and a Palestinian delegation, excluding the PLO and other parties to the dispute. Israel, however, has rejected this minimal program. This program, moreover, has now been overshadowed by the internal political crisis in Israel, whose solution might take months. Meanwhile, Israel has continued with killing and wounding Palestinians en masse.

U.S. policy is widely viewed as futile, and as conducive to creating the existing deep feelings of impatience and frustration that dominate the whole region.

Faruq al-Shar', Syrian foreign minister, has said to AL-QABAS: It would be a gross mistake for us to concentrate on a partial solution. For, Yasir 'Arafat himself has admitted the failure of his peace initiative. Moreover, Palestinian-Israeli dialogue per se will achieve no result. This dialogue can only lead to certain arrangements inside the occupied territories that serve the interests of Israel. This has nothing to do with the comprehensive peace we are seeking."

Al-Shar' added: "And such an Israeli-Palestinian deal would be opposed inside the Palestinian camp itself and inside the occupied territories. The popularity and strength of Hamas, for instance, are increasing. Hamas, too, should enter the peace process. Otherwise, you are not only heading toward a partial solution but toward a part of that partial solution. Such an approach will not put an end to the Palestinian-Israeli dispute, let alone the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Muhammad Salman, Syrian information minister on Tuesday [22 May] said to AL-QABAS: The events of the past 48 hours have shown that the policy seeking bilateral negotiations can never lead to peace in this region. The United States must, therefore, assume its responsibilities as a superpower. Comprehensive settlement can only be achieved through an international conference to be attended by all parties, under the auspices of the two superpowers or the five permanent members of the Security Council, which are asked to guarantee any agreement that might be reached. If more time is wasted, there will be no Palestinian side that would consider entering direct negotiations, or even starting a dialogue. One can hear voices from inside the PLO these days calling for the resumption of the armed struggle.

Minister Salman has revealed to AL-QABAS that the U.S. Government sent an official memorandum to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi last week urging the coming Arab summit not to pass a resolution calling for an international conference.

The U.S. memorandum says: We are still of the opinion that the best way to make progress is through an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. The call for an international conference will not lead to practical results. Besides, such a call would halt the progress made thus far."

The new thing about the current crisis affecting ties between the United States and Israel on the one hand, and between the United States and the Arabs on the other, is that this crisis is surfacing within the framework of a U.S-Syrian dialogue—which has never been so intimate. U.S. Ambassador to Damascus Edward Djerejian is the one who engineered this dialogue.

During the past two years, Ambassador Djerejian brought about changes in the climate of U.S.-Syrian ties and instilled a great deal of trust and cooperation in this climate, despite the fact that the main differences between the two governments have remained unchanged.

Djerejian told AL-QABAS: We have shown Syria the value of joint efforts when our interests are spelled out. For example, our consultations with Syria and Lebanon provided the backbone for the al-Ta'if agreement. Had it not been for these consultations, the al-Ta'if agreement would not have materialized. Now that the political framework has been established, we must have the agreement implemented on the ground. This is our policy. The statements made by some people to the effect that we concluded a deal with Samir Ja'ja' and the Lebanese Forces are totally baseless. We seek a Lebanese settlement that is compatible with Lebanon's actual objective conditions. Such a settlement should not necessarily be linked to the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is more complicated."

The U.S. ambassador went on to say: Now that the region is exploding around us, the main objective of U.S. diplomacy is to start a viable Arab-Israeli peace process. We will continue to intervene in the Middle East. We are well aware that the absence of a peace process will lead to more violence in the occupied territories and will further bolster all forms of political and religious extremism. This will also encourage the proliferation of missiles. We want to avert all of these dangers. We have established a framework for action and cooperation with Syria. We have proved that this framework can work. We acknowledge that Syria's role is very important. Eleven months ago, I relayed a message from Secretary Baker to President al-Asad. First, this message pointed out that it is not U.S. policy to exclude Syria from the peace process. Second, the message stated that Washington is very serious in its efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement of the conflict on all fronts, including the Golan, on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Third, we believe that the best way to initiate this process is through an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, which we deem to be crucial. This will continue to be our policy."

Djerejian said: We believe that Syria wants a peaceful settlement. However, it will not accept any separate deals. It wants progress on various fronts to be linked. Syria is also of the opinion that negotiations must be held within the framework of an international conference that would guarantee the implementation of the agreements to be reached. We are holding vigorous talks with the Syrian Government on these issues. I see some areas of flexibility in the Syrian position. And these areas of flexibility need to be investigated further."

The ambassador said that Syria played an important role—"and not just as mailman"—in securing the release of two U.S. hostages in Lebanon. He added: This had a positive effect on our bilateral ties. We are aware that Syria and Iran made an unconditional gesture of goodwill. President Bush held a 28-minute telephone conversation with President al-Asad. During this conversation, they discussed key issues. We are investigating with Syria whether it would be possible to secure the release of all hostages. There are still some problems preventing the full normalization of our ties and the lifting by the United States of the economic sanctions imposed on Syria. The most important obstacle in this regard concerns the facilities Syria has continued to provide to organizations linked with international terrorism. However, we are optimistic over the commitment made by President al-Asad to the effect that he will punish such organizations if irrefutable evidence is brought against them.

The ambassador concluded by saying: We want to move ahead with Syria on a wide range of issues and with a proper understanding of Syria's security interests. Observers in the region will wait to see whether Ambassador Djerejian's remarks will be accompanied by a change in Washington's policy to reflect the current pressing demands.

Afghanistan

Former King Zahir Shah Addresses Afghan People

46000106E London KEYHAN in Persian
24 May 90 p 3

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Dear brothers, sisters, children, and compatriots:

First of all, may the soul of the martyrs of Afghanistan's holy war be blessed and forgiven. Then, we send our regards to the courageous Muslim people of Afghanistan and praise and cherish the names of those self-sacrifying Afghan children who died on the front line.

The courageous Afghan nation, with the departure of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, put behind itself the difficult and bloody trial of defending its ideas, greatness, and human rights with examplary success. At the same time the nation was placed on the threshhold of establishing the sensitive and daring experience of securing its complete freedom and strengthening its national unity as well as organizing its new political life.

Unfortunately this historical process, which should have had time to draw a just and efficient conclusion from the success of the holy war and the fulfillment of essential goals, witnessed certain events and changes which not only did not let this wish materialize but also inflicted other continuous wounds on the pained body of the Afghan nation. While the outcome of the holy war of the Afghan nation has had direct effect on the politics of the region and the world and has made all oppressed nations, particularly those of Eastern Europe, capable of attaining the limits of human rights and personal freedom, and, the success of Afghanistan's holy war is reflected undeniably even in the Soviet nation, the courageous Afghan nation has not succeeded in obtaining the fruit of its holy war filled with martyrs and heroes. Afghanistan has not been able to taste the success of the holy war which has been available to all other nations, since:

- The imposed communist system is still in place.
- The opposing beliefs such as obligations based on religion, language, tribe, and region threaten Afghanistan's national unity and, God forbid, its dismemberment.
- The regional and international dimensions of the events are so dangerous that if Afghans themselves do not show some initiatives, national interests and even the survival of Afghanistan might become dependent on international and regional interests.
- Those influential in the holy war, even though for the past 11 years they endured great difficulties and put forth effort, under numerous authorities, have been without a central base and cannot at this time have any political claims because they have not had a chance to refer to the views of the people of Afghanistan, which is the principal condition of prevailing policies.

To prevent the danger caused by these people and facing the present deadend will once more place the Muslim and courageous nation of Afghanistan face to face with another historical test. Every patriotic Afghan has a role to play in the elimination of this crisis, especially those who have continuously respected the free will of the Afghan people and have not themselves been interested in political leadership, are dutiful to prepare appropriate grounds for the mutual agreement among the numerous circles of the holy war and other effective people of the courageous Afghan nation.

Dear compatriots:

I, as an experienced public servant in Afghanistan, have always placed myself along with the courageous people of Afghanistan, and all along I have viewed with respect the will of the Afghan nation to be the basis for their political life. I feel a national and conscientious responsibility to prevent the dangers arising from the present crisis as well as realizing the principal goals of the holy war which are as follows:

- Assuring Afghanistan's complete independence with its territorial integrity.
- Creating a permanent political system based on Islamic principles.
- Free participation of the Afghan nation in the political and social life of the country, without any bias, to assure peace and stability in Afghanistan with the cooperation of my compatriots in order to devise and adopt a program which will facilitate reaching these goals through understanding and interdependence between authorities in charge of the holy war and effective agents of the Afghan society. Of course, except for establishing national unity and bringing together the various parties of the Afghan society and establishing peace in the country, I have no personal claim or particular pretense in materializing these goals.

In the first place efforts will be made to prepare grounds for understanding to become possible between numerous circles participating in the holy war and others active in the Afghan society. At the same time, contacts will be made at the international level as well as in the regional framework to assure the further effectiveness of the program from all sides.

While the courageous Afghan nation looks at the brotherly and friendly cooperation of the Islamic and amicable countries and international sources in the establishment of the right of the people of Afghanistan both in the dacade of holy war and in the future as destiny, in dealing with the problems of our country, we expect that all interested people dealing with the problems of the country place the national interest and stability and security of the region over and above any other political consideration.

Dear compatriots:

At this sensitive historical stage, every Afghan, especially those who are active, and organized circles of the Afghan society are dutiful to participate through realistic and benevolent cooperation in creating a situation where enough Afghans can, in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity and without bias and interference, organize the political future life of their nation as they will and formulate their own national opinion and found their new free, respectable, Islamic Afghan society.

Once more, may the Almighty have compassion on the souls of the martyrs. I hope His mercy may bring an end to all pain and heal all wounds and bring all those separated back together and establish stability and endurance as soon as possible in our dear country.

May God give us success.

Prime Minister Presents Policy to Senate

LD2905102390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0512 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 28, BAKHTAR—Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], with Cabinet members participated today in the Senate's plenary session of the National Assembly for the presentation of the domestic and foreign policy line and introduction of the members of his government. The session was presided over by Dr. Mahmoud Habibi, speaker of the Senate.

Later, the Senate's speaker said that the Cabinet of the new government after the attainment of vote of confidence from the House of Representatives and Ratification of the office of president has attended the Senate's meeting for the presentation of the policy line of the government's domestic and foreign policy line and the introduction of the Cabinet members.

The Senate's speaker sincerely congratulated the prime minister and the members of the new Cabinet on the trust put in them by the people of Afghanistan and wished success for the new government towards the realisation and implementaiton of its policy line.

Then, Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, the prime minister, read the decree of the president of the Republic about the appointment of the chairman and members of his government.

Touching on his policy line, the prime minister added that members of the government of the (RA) and pledges to give the highest priority under any conditions to the national interests of the government and to put into effect undeviatingly its policy line.

Fazl Haq Khaliqyar pointed out that in complicance with the policy of national reconciliation and in accordance with the decree of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, I was able to receive the vote of confidence in the course of three-day sessions of the House of Representatives and expression of the views of 123 elected deputies of the Muslim and valorous people of Afganistan.

The great trust put in me and members of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan by the office of the president and House of Representatives are to be thanked and appreciated. At such a sensitive and crucial stage when the catastrophic war has inflicted numerous losses and have set many families in the mourn of their deceased dears and nears and have encountered a big portion of our society to wandering and separation a big responsibility has been put on us and thus we fully perceive it and consider it our big pride that with the help of the almighty God and with unshakable steadfastness of the Afghan nation for the deepening of the humane, Islamic and Afghani policy of national reconciliation. [sentence as received]

My colleagues and I, emphasized the prime minister, are considering our most important national obligation to achieve conciliation among the belligerent sides of our united Afghan nation and will not withold any devotion and sacrifice to achieve the noble peace objective, honesty, truthfulness and consultation of the issues with the people, deputies of the National Assembly and the open assertion of facts and realities are the method of our work.

The government strives to meet those wishes and expectations of the people of Afghanistan the contents of which are reflected in the orders of the sacred religion of Islam and the policy of national reconciliation. The government considers the observation of legality as the most important pre-requisite for the expansion and deepening of democracy which is possible through the division of the three powers and the balanced cooperation of these powers.

The prime minister hoped that the Senate's members will always help the government of the Republic of Afganistan for the removal of difficulties and realisation of the policy of national reconciliation for putting an end to fratricidal war.

Chairs First Cabinet Meeting

LD3005211390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] The first session of the new cabinet was chaired this morning by Prime Minister esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar. At the beginning of the session, a few verses of the holy Koran were recited by Qari Barakatollah Salim, and then the prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan defined the direction of work of the cabinet members within the framework of his policy and asked them to show initiative and courage in eliminating economic, social, and cultural backwardness.

Concerning the policy of national reconciliation in the country, the esteemed prime minister emphasized that this policy, which is being widely realized by the president of Afghanistan, esteemed Najibullah, with the help of our people toward maintaining peace, gives good tidings for the establishment of peace and security.

Esteemed Khaliqyar touched upon a series of social and economic problems of the country, and stated that our people, along with the continuing war, are faced with [words indistinct], indifference, abuse of public property, ambition, and seeking [word indistinct], and we should be the true servants of our people. Esteemed Khaliqyar added that we should not blame our problems on the continuation of war and thus avoid their solution. We should utilize every small opportunity to take up measures toward removing the problems created as a result of the continuation of war.

The esteemed prime minister stated: We have the duty to prepare economic, social, and cultural conditions in our society in order to maintain peace. This demands that we think harder than before and act. The removal of economic problems should be given priority. In order to correctly advance the work of society, esteemed Khaliqyar emphasized the role of delegation and [word indistinct]. He said: In order to do this, we should consider the principle of patriotism and [words indistinct] rather than nepotism [words indistinct] and other phenomena. We should be more responsible for bringing together in Kabul (?the heads of provincial governments), and cadres of every region should be employed in their localities. I believe that every member of this government will not lose his link with the people and will always be with the people and will concentrate on solving their problems and difficulties.

The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reported that at the end of Prime Minister Khaliqyar's speech, First Deputy Prime Minister Mahmud Barialay spoke, on his behalf and on behalf of the members of the government, and assured esteemed Khaliqyar that for the sake of the prosperity of the people and the maintenance of peace and security in the country, and for the complete realization of the government policy, they will make every effort with firmness and determination.

Najibullah Receives, Congratulates New Cabinet

LD3005202390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah met today with members of the government at the headquarters of presidency and congratulated them on their new jobs, which entail great national obligation and responsibilities. The esteemed president, addressing members of the government, added: You, in the course of debate for the vote of confidence heard the remarks of the members of People's Council on the problems of the country. They undoubtedly require profound deliberation and due consideration.

Esteemed Najibullah said: Our country rests at the sensitive stage of its contemporary history. The convening of the Grand National Assembly, the approval of amendments in the Constitution and the formation of the new government are fundamental and strong steps taken for the consolidation and deepening of democracy and reconciliation. The formation of the cabinet demonstrates that the national reconciliation policy moves every day toward expansion and depth, and opens the way for the participation of forces and credible social personality in the acceleration of the restoration of peace in the country.

Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, said: The professionalism of esteemed Khaliqyar's cabinet in their duty directions on the one hand will help with better advance of affairs and on the other hand it is a demonstration of just attitude toward state officials.

The esteemed president said: In such sensitive circumstances when people have really suffered and have lost their belongings in the fire of war it is necessary to create in a high cultured way such an atmosphere of cooperation as to be able to serve our people and country. I wish success in your work for all of you.

Spokesman Briefs on Pakistan's 'Hostile Measures'

LD3005185990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] An explanatory briefing was held today in the Foreign Affairs ministry with the participation of domestic and foreign journalists. Sarwar Yoresh, head of the Presidency Press Office and presidential spokesman spoke to the journalists about of the recent hostile measures taken by Pakistani authorities against the republic of Afghanistan. The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reports: In the explanatory session, Sarwar Yoresh said that according to authentic reports received from some internal commanders who are in contact with the government, Pakistan military intelligence agents recently instructed some internal commanders to attack USSR civilian aircraft flying into Kabul. The spokesman added: Pakistan military intelligence also instructed the internal commanders to intensify their combat operation and military pressure in various parts of Afghanistan. The operation is codenamed Star 2. The consequences of such acts of the Pakistani authorities are the launching of rockets against Kabul and other cities, and the increase of military pressure on Khowst and some other parts of the country. Sarwar Yoresh noted: As a result, such instructions of the Pakistani authorities seriously endanger the flights of United Nations and International Red Cross committee aircraft and other commercial and civilian flights. The spokesman of the Presidency remarked: Such indiscreet acts by Pakistan's military intelligence agency are an infringement of the Geneva agreements and other internationally accepted norms, and are contrary to the tenets and principles of humanism and Islam, which place great responsibilities with the Government of Pakistan. The responsibility for their consequences will rest with the Government of Pakistan.

Najibullah Decree Shortens Prison Sentences

LD3005173990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] The presidential office reported that a decree from esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, concerning the pardoning and reduction of sentences of prisoners has been issued with the following details:

Presidential decree concerning the pardoning and reduction of sentences of prisoners:

Article 1. On the occasion of the meeting of Loya Jirga [Grand National Assembly] dated May 1990, and based on the humanitarian measures of the policy of national reconciliation, in accordance with Paragraph 8, Article 85 of the Constitution, the pardoning *and reduction of* sentences of those who until the convocation of Loya Jirga had been convicted of committing various crimes, is approved as detailed:

1. For those who have been sentenced to up to five years in prison, and who have served one-fifth of the sentence, the remainder of their sentence is pardoned.

2. For those who have been sentenced to between five and 10 years imprisonment, and who have served one-quarter of their sentence, the remainder of their sentence is pardoned.

Article 2. Those who have been sentenced to more than ten years imprisonment, their sentence is reduced by one-third.

Article 3. Those Armed Forces personnel who have been sentenced to imprisonment under Article 8 of the Penal Law for crimes against combat readiness, in which cases the weaponry wasted is less than two pieces or the price of other wasted combat tools does not exceed 120,000 Afghani, without consideration of conviction and the period served, are released from prison.

Article 4. If the persons included in Articles 1, 2 and 3 [word indistinct], in addition to imprisonment, have been sentenced to paying financial compensations for damage, they will only benifit from the priviliges of this decree when they pay these dues.

Article 5.

1. Complementary and [word indistinct] sentences of persons included in this decree have been pardoned and should be restored to their previous ranks and grades.

2. Officers and NCOs included in Paragraph 1 of this article are dutybound to occupy their officer's or NCOs duty in whatever place they are commissioned by the relevant departments.

3. Those persons released from prison under the provisions of this decree, who are eligible for conscription or call-up to the Armed Forces, are to be sent to the Armed Forces for service. The aforementioned individuals are dutybound to serve the fixed or remaining period [word indistinct] in the relevant ministry.

Article 6. Those convicted of treason, (?except those) included in Article 3 of this decree, [words indistinct], terrorism, spying, explosions, highway robbery, armed [word indistinct], kidnapping, deliberate arson, illegal transport of weapons, [word indistinct] and explosive substances, bribery, embezzlement and smuggling, economic sabotage, [word indistinct] and hoarding are not to benifit from this decree, except when their sentence is not more than five years imprisonment.

Article 7. Prisoners severely ill and those over the age of 60 or completely disabled, are to come under Decree No. 236 dated 24 April 1990.

Article 8. This decree is to be implemented within two months (?through) the authorized commissions included in Decree No. 236 dated 24 April 1990.

Article 9. This decree is enforced from the date of issue and will be published in the official gazette.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Three Missiles Fired at Kabul 27 May; 2 Dead

LD2705164490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 May 90

[Text] Today three surface-to-surface U.S. missiles were fired by the extremists, as a result of which two Kabul inhabitants were killed and another five people wounded.

BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reports that the missiles, two of which were the cluster type and one a SAKR-type, were launched from a northwest direction.

These missiles landed on the residential areas of seventh and 11th ward of Kabul and caused material damage too.

The mines spread by the cluster missiles were cleared and defused by security personnel.

'Fierce Fighting' Said 'Raging' at Bagram

BK2805032290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, fierce fighting is said to be raging between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces in various parts of the country. Mujahidin attacked the Bagram Air Base, killing eight Kabul soldiers and damaging three tanks and four military vehicles. In retaliation, the Kabul regime's fighter aircraft bombed mujahidin positions, martyring four mujahidin.

Missile Attacks Kill Six in Residential Area

LD2805160590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] Today 22 surface-to-surface SAKR and cluster type missiles were fired on residential areas of Kabul city. As a result, six of our compatriots were martyred and 20 persons including women and children were wounded.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that the injured were transferred to hospitals immediately and were given intensive care and treatment.

Today's missiles were fired by the opposition forces from the northerly and westerly directions. They landed on districts Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of Kabul city and caused considerable financial damage to the citizens.

Mines spread as a result of cluster type missiles were cleared and defused by the security personnel.

Ministry Purchases Missiles From Opposition Group

LD2805182590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] In accordance with Decree No. 204 dated 10 October 1987, the State Security Ministry purchased yesterday three SAKR-30 surface-to-surface missiles and six Mezael surface-to-surface missiles from the armed opposition groups. The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports that the price of these missiles was paid to the opposite side in accordance with the decree.

Mujahidin Reportedly Down Jet Fighter, Kill 28

BK2905082290 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have shot down a Kabul regime jet fighter in Paghman. An armored carrier was also destroyed by the mujahidin at Qal'eh-ye Agha village. Twenty-eight Kabul regime soldiers have also been killed by the mujahidin in an attack at (Tusma-i-Bulbul) and (Rusta-i-Radaon).

Combat Operations, Retaliatory Attacks Reported

LD2905084190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] The units and companies of the heroic Armed Forces of the country stationed in Khowst major district enjoy high combat readiness and are ready to foil any possible attack by the armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi mercenaries.

Quoting an authoritative source, the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports that on 26 May the joint forces of the enemy, with heavy weapons support from the directions of Tanai, Gorbez, and Lakand, attacked the security posts and front lines of the units and companies.

The units and companies of the Armed Forces, with the direct cooperation of the people, pushed back these attacks and stationed themselves in a better position.

As a result of combat operations and retaliatory attacks by the units and companies, 490 armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi mercenaries were disabled during the last four days. Dozens of light and heavy weapons, two depots, and their one supply convoy were destroyed. Eighteen machine guns, two rocket launchers, and their one mortar were seized.

As a result of fire by the enemies of peace and of the homeland on a number of Khowst's units and companies, 10 of their personnel and four local persons were martyred, and 11 personnel from the units and companies and two local people were injured.

The source adds that units and companies stationed in Nangarhar Province are engaged in consolidation of their previous and new positions, and enjoy high combat morale.

During the last four days, the Pakistani agents have fired heavy weapons on a number of security posts, on front line units and companies, and on a number of the residential areas. In retaliation, the firing positions and resistance point of the warmongers were subjected to air and artillery attacks. As a result of this, 41 enemies of peace and tranquillity were ousted from combat ranks during the last four days. Their two vehicles carrying arms and ammunition and two recoilless guns were destroyed.

As a result of fire by the armed extremists, Saudi mercenaries, and Pakistani militarists, two members of the Armed Forces were martyred and eight members of the armed forces and four local people were injured.

The source adds that the units and companies of the Armed Forces in Qandahar Province have remained in their previous positions. The Pakistani agents have fired heavy weapons during the last four days on a number of the positions, security posts, and residential areas. In order to foil the criminal actions by the joint forces of the warmongers, their positions were subjected to air and artillery attacks. As a result, during the last four days 26 of the enemy were disabled. Their two rocket launchers, one mortar, one recoilless gun, and a vehicle carrying arms and ammunition were destroyed.

Bangladesh

Ershad Announces Next Year's Election Schedule

BK2905161490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 May 90

[Excerpt] The newly constructed Karnaphuli Bridge in Chittagong has been opened to traffic. Inaugurating the bridge today, President Ershad said the bridge will help create another industrial estate in the area. He said the demand for a parallel road from the bridge-point to the Cox's Bazaar will be considered. He thanked the Netherlands Government for assistance in the construction of the Karnaphuli Bridge.

About the coming elections, President Ershad said the presidential elections will be held in the country between the period from the 14th of April til 14th October next year. Parliamentary elections, he said, will follow. [passage omitted]

Premier Returns, Terms Thai Visit Fruitful

BK2605141490 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 26 May 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed has described his recent five-day official visit to Thailand as fruitful and satisfactory. Addressing a news conference in Dhaka today, the prime minister said during the visit he exchanged views with the Thai leadership, particularly King Phumiphon and Queen Sirikit and Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan. [passage omitted]

Commentary Foresees Improvement in Indian Ties

BK2505162290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 May 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] A wind of optimism is blowing across Indo-Bangladesh relations. There is hope of genuine efforts now toward a resolution of outstanding issues between the two countries. That hope has been generated by the outcome of the recently concluded talks under the auspices of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission [JEC].

After a gap of seven years, the JEC met in New Delhi earlier this week to take steps for bolstering trade and economic cooperation between them. A joint communique said that efforts will be taken to enhance cooperation by taking advantage of the opportunities that exist for the buildup of ties.

Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, returning from the Indian capital yesterday, spoke to newsmen about the new horizons in relations between the two neighbors. He said there was better chance now for the bilateral issues to be resolved. India is reportedly taking steps for the transfer of the Tin Bigha land corridor to Bangladesh under the 1974 lease treaty between the two countries and the subsequent accord of 1982. This is an overture which will be highly appreciated in Bangladesh which has been waiting for the transfer since the treaty was signed. Bangladesh had immediately ratified the treaty, but it was only recently that a verdict of the Indian Supreme Court cleared the ground for the Indian ratification. After the transfer is completed, a major irritant in bilateral relations will be removed and a climate for further cooperation will be achieved.

Bangladesh is keen on developing cooperation in the region and has always endeavored toward the buildup of understanding and friendly ties among all the countries in the South Asian region. It is from such a desire that Bangladesh took the initiative for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC]. The SAARC has been nursed by Bangladesh, and during all critical periods in the short history of the regional forum, Bangladesh has come forward to bring about an end to misunderstanding and reduction of tension. This role of Bangladesh as a moderate force and as a strong advocate for regional cooperation and harmony is well recognized in the international community.

The Bangladesh foreign minister impressed on his Indian counterpart, Mr. Gujral, that Dhaka will do everything for enhancing bilateral relations. But for this, there should be reciprocity marked by sincere efforts toward the resolution of outstanding issues. It is a happy indication that India has shown its willingness for taking steps to remove the irritants.

The continuing support to the misguided elements in the Chittagong Hill Tracts is an issue that has been embittering feelings between the two countries. By providing sanctuaries to the so-called Shanti Bahini tribal force, a constant problem of security (?stepped) in the hill tracts. This was hampering progress in the region and the economic development of the vast majority of the tribal population who want to live in peace and harmony and make their own contribution to national development. It is reassuring that the Indian Government has pledged to stop giving any aid to the tribal extremists. This will facilitate the return of the Chakma tribal families to their own villages in Bangladesh. These families had taken shelter across the border after they were forced to flee their homes by the activities of the Shanti Bahini.

There is also some positive indication toward the resolution of the Ganges sharing dispute. Bangladesh has been insisting on a permanent sharing agreement and would like to revise the memorandum of understanding on the international rivers which had expired. There is need to stop all human interferences on the river in the upper reaches so that the historic flow is restored and Bangladesh gets its legitimate share of the water.

India

Pakistani Troops Open 'Unprovoked Fire' at BSF

BK3105110890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1043 GMT 31 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 31 (AFP)—Pakistani troops opened "unprovoked" fire and seriously wounded three Indian border guards on Kashmir's border late Tuesday [29 May], the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Thursday [31 May]. India's paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) returned the fire, but casualties on the Pakistani side were not known, a BSF spokesman was quoted as saying in Jammu, the winter capital of Kashmir state. The spokesman did not say how long the firing lasted, but said it occurred in the Poonch sector on the border of disputed Kashmir. The spokesman added that "intermittent firing" between Pakistani and Indian troops had been going on in the Pooch sector, but did not give details of casualties if any.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since their independence in 1947, twice over Kashmir, parts of which are held by the two countries.

PTI said the Kashmir police had also busted a gang of Pakistani spies which had been operating in Jammu for four years. Police said the gang, led by two men including an Indian army deserter, was working for the Pakistani Field Intelligence Unit (FIU), besides smuggling arms for Sikh separatists in neighbouring Punjab State. No further details were available.

Indian-held Kashmir has been wrecked by a bloody separatist campaign, for which New Delhi blames Islamabad. Pakistan denies arming the Kashmir rebels but supports the campaign. The Kashmir strife has triggered fears of a fourth war between Pakistan and India.

Fernandes Relieved of Kashmir Affairs Duties

BK3005124690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] The railway minister, Mr. George Fernandes, has been relieved of his additional charge of coordinating matters relating to the Kashmir affairs. A Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] communique says this has been done on the advise of the prime minister. The communique says the order of 12th March this year directing Mr. George Fernandes to coordinate all actions of the ministries and departments relating to the state of Jammu and Kashmir has been rescinded.

Paper Backs Policy of Rejecting Kashmir Mediation

BK2705073690 Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 May 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Kashmir and Big Two"]

[Text] New Delhi has done well indeed to react quickly to reports about a mediation attempt by the two superpowers on the Kashmir issue and make its position unequivocally clear. Acceptance of any mediation would certainly have been totally incompatible with this country's stand on the issue. India has consistently stood for a bilateral resolution of the issue on the basis of the Simla Agreement without any preconditions. And the position should be unexceptionable to anyone who recognises the imperatives of national sovereignty and regional peace. The agreement lays down very concrete procedures for efforts at such a settlement, and initiatives have already been taken in fact to set these in motion. The reports caused particular concern by indicating that the US move aimed, inter alia, at stressing the need for "greater autonomy" to Kashmir. This was all too evidently an internal matter for India to consider and decide. Washington has now, of course, denied that the coming visit of US President's Special Envoy Robert Gates to New Delhi and Islamabad will constitute any mediation exercise. The clarification has been welcomed, and there indeed is no reason why any steps by superpowers to defuse tensions in any region should not be. The reaction of Pakistan does not augur too well for the success of a disinterested move for a political settlement of the question and for peace. Ambassador Zulfiqar Ali Khan has not raised hopes by stating that "whether they (the Gates mission) wish to investigate, or mediate, or whatever they wish to do, they are welcome." White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater has, meanwhile, urged a resolution "of all the aspects of the Kashmir dilemma" and spoken of "more human rights violations and open warfare going on there". It deserves to be made clear, once again, that no external effort is required to prescribe the degree of autonomy the State of Jammu and Kashmir should enjoy in the Indian Union. India's public opinion and Parliament are capable of resolving this issue. However, the great powers can restrain Pakistan and thus dispel the threat of a military conflict over Kashmir.

Former Haryana Chief Minister Wins By-Election

BK2705090290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 May 90

[Text] The former chief minister, Mr. Om Prakash Chautala, the Janata Dal candidate has won the by-election from the Darbakalan assembly constituency in Haryana. He defeated his nearest Congress-I rival, Mr. Jagdish Mehra, by over 53,000 votes. All the eight other candidates, including the Congress-I nominee, lost their security deposits.

In Ambala cantonment, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] candidate, Mr. Anil Kumar, was leading by 2,200 votes over his nearest rival, Mr. Ram Das Taneja of the Congress-I at the end of the third round of counting.

Possible Janata Dal Rift Seen

BK2805042090 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 28 May 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The former chief minister of the Indian state of Haryana has won a resounding victory in a by-election to the state assembly. As our correspondent, Mark Tully, reports from Delhi, the victory could lead to the reopening of a very damaging controversy within the ruling party—the Janata Dal.

[Begin Tully recording] The former chief minister, Mr. Om Prakash Chautala, won the Darbakalan by-election by such a wide majority that all his opponents forfeited their deposits. Both he and his father, Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Devi Lal, are bound to see this as a vindication of their stand that he should not have been asked to resign as chief minister. The president of the Janata Dal, the party in power in Delhi and in Haryana, asked Mr. Chautala to resign because of the outcry over the violence in another by-election which he was fighting.

In an interview published in THE TIMES OF INDIA, Mr. Devi Lal, the deputy prime minister, has bitterly attacked the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, for this decision. He said: Great injustice has been done to me; I have been let down. He also accused Mr. V.P. Singh of betraying his colleagues for the sake of his image.

When the interviewer suggested that all Mr. Devi Lal's cabinet colleagues were against him, he replied: Wait until the Darbakalan by-election, when the Congress will lose its deposit. That will answer everyone.

The Congress has now lost its deposit. So the controversy over Mr. Chautala may well be revived less than a week after the prime minister hoped he buried it. [end recording]

Minister Menon Comments on Safety of Reactors

BK2905110890 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Indian heavy water reactors are among the safest in the world in terms of their design and character. Giving this information in the upper house of parliament today, the minister of state for science and technology, Professor M.G.K. Menon, said India is not building Chernobyl-type reactors. He said the safety features of the pressurized heavy water reactors built in the country are quite different from those of the Chernobyl system.

India Seen as 'Scapegoat' for Fijian Problems

BK2505122590 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 25 May 90

[Uma Shanker Fadnis commentary: "Developments in Fiji"]

[Text] The sequence of events leading to an illegal regime in the island of Fiji closing down the Indian diplomatic mission goes back to 1987 when a coterie of Army officials under the leadership of Colonel Rabuka overthrew a government which had been democratically elected, and established a racist dictatorship. Since then, 50 percent of the island's population of 720,000 consisting of people of Indian origin have been savagely discriminated against economically and politically. In the process, a large number of them who had made Fiji their homeland for more than 100 years are being forced to flee from the island.

Immediately following the coup, the Government of India expressed its distress over the seizure of power by the Army and the arrests of members of the elected government. Recklessly flaunting public opinion in the international arena, Col. Rabuka and his coterie stubbornly refused to budge from their racist position and heed the advice of powers traditionally friendly to successive regimes in the island, namely New Zealand and Australia.

Under the circumstances, India found itself with no option but to deny recognition to the military regime in Fiji. Thus, in July 1987 a spokesman of the Government of India announced that India would not recognize the Republic of Fiji unless the new government had the support of all sections of Fiji's multiracial society.

Though India had withdrawn its recognition of the new government, it continued to maintain its mission in the island as well as its high commissioner. The 1970 Constitution ushering in Fiji's independence and membership of the British Commonwealth had been designed in such a manner that it respected the status—economic and political—of the various ethnic groups constituting its population.

The last two years have witnessed an ever-increasing attempt on the part of Col. Rabuka not only to provide a constitutional legitimacy to the usurper government, but also take more and more discriminatory measures against the ethnic Indian populace. This led to a great deal of inter-ethnic tension and the Indian mission, as was only to be expected, was being constantly approached for its succor. Finally, last year, a group of frenzied indigenous Fijians burnt a gurdwara [Sikh temple], a mosque, and two Hindu temples. Even as the high commissioner sought to assuage the (?frayed) sentiments of the ethnic Indian population over these incidents, the Fijian authorities sought the high commissioner's withdrawal on the grounds of apparent interference of the Government of India in Fiji's affairs. The Government of India has rejected these charges as totally baseless and maintained that the high commissioner was trying merely to emphasize the need for measures for restoring interracial harmony and showing respect for all the religions.

The Fiji demand for the withdrawal of the high commissioner, Mr. Srinivasan, came at a time when the government had already announced its decision to transfer him back to headquarters after the completion of his normal term of duty in Fiji. As such, it is obvious that the Fijian authorities had been politically motivated in asking for his withdrawal. The final act of the regime demanding the closure of the Indian mission fits into this pattern of its behavior toward India. For one thing, the Fijian authorities have not succeeded in mustering enough international opinion within the British Commonwealth which would have entitled them to seek reentry into it.

Apart from the fact that this represents the response of the international community to all kinds of discrimination, other factors such as domestic difficulties faced by the government because of flight of capital from the island, the depletion of the tourist traffic, and the general economic dislocation caused by the ethnic conflict appear to have goaded the Fijian authorities to find the existence of a skeletal Indian mission as a scapegoat for their difficulties. It is in this context that the developments in Fiji have to be viewed. Thus, in a statement to the parliament yesterday, the minister of external affairs, Mr. I.K. Gujral, described as totally false and malicious the Fijian allegation that the Indian mission had been intervening in Fiji's internal affairs. Mr. Gujral has made it clear that India will continue to mobilize world opinion and sustain its support for the democratic movement of the valiant people of Fiji.

With the apartheid in South Africa well on the way to being dismantled, it seems to be seen how long the Fijian regime will be able to persist in its discriminatory ways in the face of international public opinion.

Sri Lanka Criticized for Bringing Up Repatriation

BK2505101590 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 14 May 90 p 11

[Editorial: "A Human Problem"]

[Text] At a time when every effort should have been to smoothen relations between India and Sri Lanka, it is unfortunate that the Sri Lankan Minister, Mr Rajan

Wijeratne, thought it necessary to rake up the issue of repatriation of Tamils of Indian origin. It is true that such a repatriation was agreed to between the two countries under the Sirimavo-Shastri pact of 1964. What caused surprise was its resurrection when over a decade has passed since the expiry of the 15-year period during which the repatriation process should have been complete. This fact alone makes the bona fides of the move suspect. India cannot go back on a solemn commitment but then Sri Lanka cannot also overlook the vast changes in the ground realities both at home and in India since the pact was signed. The one-lakh strong Tamils of Indian origin, who work in rubber and tea plantations, opted for Indian passports when they were under duress and unable to live with honour because of the denial of citizenship and the facilities that go with it in Sri Lanka. Most of them are either dead or are very old and it is not justifiable to ask their descendants, who were born and brought up in Sri Lanka, to pack up and go to a land which is totally alien to them except for the cultural and linguistic moorings it can offer. Besides, even in Sri Lankan Government there are persons who are opposed to any forced repatriation of the Tamils who, incidentally, played a major role in tilting the electoral balance in favour of President Premadasa in the last election.

Apparently, the Sri Lankan Minister is not bothered by the human problem involved in rooting out such a large number of people. It should not be construed as shirking its responsibility when India insists that the return of the Sri Lankan refugees in India should be concurrent with any repatriation. The 94,000 or so Sri Lankan refugees are here not at the invitation of India, as suggested by Mr. Wijeratne, but because they sought asylum on account of the ethnic crisis in the island nation. In doing so, India only reiterates its commitment to the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which says that India "will expedite repatriation from Sri Lanka of Indian citizens who are resident there concurrently with the repatriation of Sri Lankan refugees from Tamil Nadu". This should have in the ordinary course settled the matter once and for all. Alas, in his bid to be one-up, the Sri Lankan Minister has overlooked this important provision of the accord. Instead of finding fault with India, Mr Wijeratne should have persuaded his Government to hold talks with its Indian counterpart on working out the modalities for reciprocal repatriation causing the least inconvenience to the hapless people involved.

Spokesman Condemns Israel for Palestinians' Deaths

BK2605044090 Hong Kong AFP in English 2119 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 25 (AFP)—India on Friday [25 May] condemned Israel for killing "innocent Arabs" in the occupied territories and called for an early resolution of the Palestinian conflict. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said the government condemned the "brutal killing of innocent Arab workers by Israeli gunmen and the subsequent action by Israeli security forces in occupied Arab territories."

An Israeli gunman killed eight Palestinian workers near Tel Aviv Sunday [20 May], sparking off clashes between soldiers and enraged Palestinians in Israeli-held West Bank and Gaza Strip which left 15 Arabs dead and hundreds injured. Arab diplomats here met Indian External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral this week, and appealed to New Delhi to condemn the killings.

The spokesman said that the Middle East would remain unstable "as long as the Palestinian question remained unresolved."

India has no diplomatic ties with Israel and is an active backer of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which has an embassy here. India also recognises the state of Palestine announced in November 1988.

Iran

Tehran Reports Bush Confirmation of Iranian Deaths

LD3005112590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] According to a UPI report, Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman said yesterday: George Bush, the U.S. President, has informed Iran that the existing evidence indicates that the four Iranian hostages in Lebanon are no longer alive. Fitzwater claimed that the information gathered by the international organizations such as the Red Cross indicate that the four individuals for whom the Iranians had expressed concern are dead. The Islamic Republic of Iran had called for the release of the Iranian hostages alongside the remaining Lebanese and Palestinian hostages. On the basis of the same report, in a recent press interview held following the release of U.S. hostages Robert Polhill and Frank Reed, Bush said that to express his gratitude to Iran, he had attempted to gather further information pertaining to the fate of the four Iranians. Fitzwater said that George Bush had considered his initiative as a goodwill gesture by the United States. The White House spokesman added: This information was passed on to Iran by the Swiss Government, and as Bush remarked, we have carried out extensive efforts to gather information from international organizations as well as our private sources which we have had in the region for some years. Now we have passed on this information to the Iranian Government. The White House claim has been made at a time when, recently, a television network affiliated to Michael 'Awn has announced that three of the four Iranians taken hostage in 1982 are alive.

Foreign Ministry: Iranian Hostages 'Still Alive'

LD3005170490 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 30, IRNA—A senior Foreign Ministry official today revealed that Iranian hostages held in Lebanon are still alive. "Following the Islamic Republic's inquiry into the fate of Iranian hostages in Lebanon we have got information from reliable sources over the past few days that our hostages are alive," Morteza Sarmadi, the foreign Ministry spokesman told IRNA.

"We are glad to hear this," Sarmadi said, adding "the Islamic Republic will continue efforts to obtain more detailed information about the situation of its hostages."

He said, the Islamic Republic hopes that Western countries who back kidnappers would use their influence to secure the release of these innocent people being kept as hostages for eight years.

The Islamic Republic has been the prime victim of hostage taking in Lebanon when four Iranians were kidnapped by the Western backed Christian Phalangists in 1982.

Paper Views U.S.-USSR Summit Prospects

LD3105085390 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 31 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 31, IRNA—A morning English-language daily Thursday [31 May] commented on the imminent U.S.-USSR summit meeting in Washington and noted that at this critical juncture the Soviet leader "cannot afford to make mistakes."

'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in an editorial titled "U.S.-Soviet Summit: Will Gorbachev Survive?" said that the Bush Administration "is using Soviet instability as a leverage to pressure the embattled Kremlin leaders." Gorbachev himself, the article added, had painfully acknowledged that the road towards upliftment of the Soviet economy will be difficult with a runaway inflation and unemployment.

"Will Gorbachev concede too much to the wishes of America in return for U.S. financial assurance? Or will he stand by Kremlin's tough stand vis-a-vis Baltic republic's clamor for independence even though his hold on the government machinery could be endangered?" argued the article. However, the daily suggested, "It remains to be seen what move he will take in Washington to improve the lot of the Soviet people."

UK Said To Be 'Softening Its Stance'

LD2905211690 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 29 May 90

["Britain Now Appears Ready To Talk to Iran"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, May, 29, IRNA—Britain is softening its stance towards Iran and dropping its demand for a concession before direct talks are possible and it is now actually seeking "ways of having direct talks" with Iran, the UK's foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, has said. And he is said to have in mind four people who could be sent to Iran as a 'special envoy'.

Hurd stated that the British Government did believe the time had come for direct contact with Tehran and according to opposition Labour MP George Foulkes, the foreign secretary said the government is now prepared to meet directly. The British, who are isolated in Europe, being the only EEC country without relations with Iran, are desperate to restore diplomatic ties with Tehran. The foreign secretary and his deputy, William Waldegrave, the Foreign Office minister, have stated three times in the last six months that the UK wants to improve its relations with Iran, which they said is a "very important country" in the Middle East.

The news comes at a time when the British Government is under increasing pressure from all sides to restore ties with Iran and to alter its hard-line attitude to talks. Until now Britain has insisted that any step towards Iran must be preceded by a gesture from Tehran, such as the release of Roger Cooper, the British spy imprisoned in Iran, or the lifting of the death sentence against the apostate author, Salman Rushdie, for writing his anti-Islamic book, 'The Satanic Verses', or progress on the release of British hostages.

Foulkes said the impression given by Hurd at an hour-long meeting on Thursday of a group of MPs who form the newly formed all-party 'group for the release of hostages', was that "there were no problems to be resolved before talks happen". And far from dismissing a suggestion that the British Government appoint a special envoy to Tehran, Foulkes added that "he (the foreign secretary) said he had in mind three or four people who would fulfil that role", but did not name any of them.

Just two weeks ago, the head of a high-level Iranian delegation, Hoseyn Musavian, who is the director-general for European affairs at Iran's Foreign Ministry, refused to meet with British diplomats, while the delegation was in Dublin, Ireland for a top-level meeting with the European Community (EC), which Was represented by Ireland, France and Italy. The British Foreign Office had claimed that a meeting between the UK's assistant under secretary at the foreign office, Jeremy Greenstock, and Mr. Musavian, had been arranged, but Iran denied this.

The 'OBSERVER' newspaper this week said that now British Government sources are claiming that the meeting between the British and Iranian officials in Dublin did not take place because "the Iranians shied off". The OBSERVER's sources also claimed that the meeting "was arranged after Tehran requested contact".

Despite British media claims that the release of hostages are uppermost in the British Government's mind, most independent observers believe the British Government desperately needs to restore its relations with Tehran and that this is shown clearly by the UK's willingness now to drop its earlier pre-conditions and demands for Iranian concessions.

Commentary Decries Treatment of Iranians in UK

LD3005131990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1108 GMT 30 May 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Yesterday, the wife and mother of Mr. Mehrdad Kokabi, who is currently under arrest in Britain, took part in an interview in which they spoke about the unjust circumstances of his arrest. Mr. Kokabi, who was pursuing his higher education at doctorate level at Manchester's UMIST [expansion unknown] university, has been imprisoned by British royal police [as heard] for the past five months on groundless charges. What has been mentioned by the police with regard to the reason for his arrest, is the accusation of territorist activities and arson in a bookshop. Of course, so far, after five months, these claims have remained at the level of accusations only, and despite several court sessions, due to a lack of evidence and reasons, no ruling has been issued so far. And it is expected that, in the next six months to a year, the supreme court will begin its examination of the charges against Mr. Kokabi. It is clear that that will only be possible through the presentation of evidence which the police continue to be unable to present.

After the Salman Rushdie affair, which brought in its train the support and partiality of the British Government, on the basis of the single article of the measures approved by the Majles, it was made incumbent on our Foreign Ministry to sever diplomatic ties if the British Government did not declare its opposition to adopting an unprincipled stand in the face of the world of Islam, the Islamic Republic, and the contents of the anti-Islamic book "The Satanic Verses".

The initiative taken by the Majles in Esfand 1367 [beginning 20 Feb 1989], following the British Government's stubbornness and intransigence, led to the severence of diplomatic ties between the two countries. From that date on, which was considered to be the second major defeat for British foreign policy in the Middle East, the British Government began a range of unjust, irresponsible, and illegal actions against Iranians.

During this time, students and employees of the Islamic Republic of Iran's offices in London have witnessed the greatest maltreatment, which in many cases also involved deportations. Although the deportations have always taken place under the excuse of security matters, nonetheless, the trend of developments speaks of adventures far from the claims of British police. The past record of those people in Britain has removed all doubts about the falseness and contrived nature of the police accusations from the minds of friends and acquaintances. As an example, Mr. Kokabi's wife says that when he was arrested on charges of territorist activities, his fellow students and lecturers were very surprised, while the head of the university at which Mr. Kokabi was studying described him as a hard-working student.

Taking such violent actions, therefore, is undoubtedly aimed at gaining political concessions. The British Government possibly intends to solve its problems by linking issues together; those problems may be the issue of British hostages in Lebanon, Roger Cooper, and ties with Iran. For some time, the issue of the damaging vacuum in the lack of ties with Iran, as an important country in the region, has been raised openly in Britain. For that reason, some initiatives by British politicians are seen for contacts with Iran; the most important of these occurred a little while ago. Two weeks ago, a British diplomat tried to hold talks with a high-ranking Iranian delegation in Dublin. The Iranian delegation had gone to Ireland to hold talks with representatives of the EC. As a result of the disinclination of the Iranian delegation, the British diplomat's effort failed.

In any case, notwithstanding the violent actions of British police and that country's political efforts, until such a time as the British Government's stance over Salman Rushdie complies with the measure approved by the Majles, a change in the situation cannot be expected.

Arab Arrests in UK Said for 'Political' Reasons

LD2605091790 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] London, May 24, IRNA—The arrests of the chief editor of the Arabic magazine AL-'ALAM, the head of a Kuwaiti human rights organisation, and three other Muslim Arabs under the UK's so-called Prevention of Terrorism Act, are "purely political" and not connected to any alleged plan to execute the apostate author Salman Rushdie. Independent sourcecs told IRNA here today, that they believe it is part of a concerted British effort to satisfy the reactionary Arab regimes in the Persian Gulf, in their campaign against Islamic values and to place pressure on Britain's Muslims not to defend Islamic principles in general. The British Government is using 'The Satanic Verses' as an excuse and covering up the real reasons for the arrests, added the sources.

The five men, all Muslims, were arrested in dawn raids on homes in London and the north of England on Tuesday [22 May]. At least thirty armed plain-clothes police officers and many more uniformed support officers raided the homes of the victims, who are now being held at the maximum security police station at Paddington Green in central London. News of the arrests was not released until Wednesday morning [23 May], through a leak to a daily tabloid.

London's Metropolitan Police at Scotland Yard have been reluctant to release any information regarding the five detained Muslims, now known to be three Bahrainis and two Kuwaitis, or the charges levelled against them. The poice have refused to comment whether detectives were investigating a plot against sentenced apostate Rushdie.

One of the arrested men, the editor of the London-based weekly Arabic magazine, AL-'ALAM, Dr. Mohammed Shehabi, had two computers and various files removed from his home when 'Special Branch' police officers searched it during the dawn raid on Tuesday morning.

Shehabi's wife, Masooma, said she had been deeply shocked at the way police searched their home and frightened their four small children. His wife added that "my husband has always been a law-abiding person and has nothing to fear. He has always expressed his views openly and anyone reading them will understand his true peace-loving nature."

Those who know him told IRNA that the accusation is grossly far-fetched and that Dr. Shehabi has no connection with any plot against Rushdie. They point out that he has written articles against the author, because he believed there was freedom of speech in Britain and that Muslims were granted that right as well as non-Muslims.

According to the INDEPENDENT newspaper, Dr. Shehabi published an article this year, saying that Imam Khomeyni's edict sentencing Salman Rushdie to death for writing the blasphemous novel "should not mean that Muslims could break the laws of countries in which they lived."

This article clearly shows that claims by some sections of the UK press, that Shehabi was involved in a plot to break UK laws and carry out the execution of Rushdie, are false and appear baseless.

However, it is known that Shahebi was a campaigner against corruption in the Middle East and especially in his own country Bahrain in the Persian Gulf. He has been terrified by some Bahraini officials in the last few years and his friend said that if the British Government deports him to Bahrain, there is no doubt the authorities there will execute him.

One of the other men arrested, is believed to be Anwar al-Harby, a Kuwaiti political refugee who runs the Committee for Defence of Freedom in Kuwait (CDFK), a London-based human rights group. The CDFK told the INDEPENDENT on Thursday [24 May] that al-Harby would not engage in activities which could cost the support of human rights groups.

Muslims in England believe the British Government is using the Salman Rushdie affair as an excuse to arrest and terrorise Muslims in Britain and deport those who are active against the West. The British are using their 'Prevention of Terrorism Act', already attacked by the European Court of Human Rights, to enable them to carry out this new move against the UK's Muslim community. Many Iranians and at least 30 Arabs have already been deported from Britain in the last 12 months. But the general public in the UK have been told very little about these expulsions. No valid reason has been given for their deportations, just the statement that it was "on the grounds of national security."

Editorial Says Arab Summit Offers 'No Hope'

NC2905141790 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Baghdad Summit Is No Cure to Muslims' Problems"]

[Text] Reports have it that pressures from different corners are directed at the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to take part in the upcoming Arab summit to be hosted by Baghdad.

The Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, for instance, sent his Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali to Damascus, on Friday [18 May] to handdeliver his personal letter to the Syrian leader. The message should be looked upon in the light of the shuttle diplomacy launched by Arab leaders as it comes after a tour of Algiers by the Palestinian Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat Wednesday.

Iraqi leaders too through widespread indirect efforts, are trying hard to persuade President al-Asad to participate in their summit enterprise. Apparently they are organizing their work on al-Asad in such a way as to blame him for sabotaging the summit should he remain firm in not attending it.

On another plane the Iraqis are also trying to put al-Asad a bad light by presenting him as the man standing in the way of bringing the Palestinian problem to a head. This they are doing by cashing in on the first topic on the agenda of the Baghdad summit, i.e. the issue of the Soviet Jewish influx to Israel.

But in reality however the Palestinian issue has, over the three decades been always taken advantage of by the countries hosting the Arab summit as a propaganda ploy only. This is so self-evident that Iraq is not even trying to do it implicitly. The summit agenda openly includes a topic under the heading "In defense of Saddam and Iraq against Western propaganda".

Judging from such a political backdrop it may be said with near certainty that no practical step should be expected to be taken by the upcoming summit against USSR, Israel and its Western allies over the Jewish influx to the occupied lands.

An instance of such a lenient approach to this quite worrying problem was observed in the very "soft handling" of the issue by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak during his Soviet tour last week.

Meanwhile the PLO Leader 'Arafat too is very busy with his political brokering over the Baghdad summit. By trying hard to help the summit to convene in as favorable an atmosphere as possible 'Arafat hopes to isolate his regional adversary (al-Asad) on the one hand, and, on the other, to use the whole thing to reaffirm his leadership over the PLO. In fact his leadership has been greatly undermined by the vigorously continuing intifadah (revolt) in the occupied territories.

Aside from all these self-centered political games, the summit faces yet another problem. Arab leaders seem not to have a proper grasp of the new political conditions of the world.

If they had, they would not have opted for an "Arab" summit based on sectarian and racist considerations which have no value in world public opinion today.

The Baghdad summit then offers no hope of cure to problems facing the Muslim people.

Commentary Expects Little From Arab Summit

NC2905145890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0450 GMT 29 May 90

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. The extraordinary Arab summit convened in Baghdad yesterday. This is the 19th Arab summit in the past 26 years. The current session was convened at 'Arafat's request to discuss the dangers from the emigration of Soviet Jews as well as the threat of foreign propaganda attacks on Iraq. 'Arafat made this request in late April on the condition that the extraordinary Arab summit be held in Iraq.

Because of the trampling on human rights in Iraq and of its efforts to smuggle in military equipment, Iraq has been internationally isolated, and the Arab summit in Baghdad grants the Baghdad regime the opportunity to enjoy Arab support vis-a-vis what has been described as foreign attacks.

In other words, irrespective of its political outcome, the Arab summit will primarily be a personal point scored by the Iraqi regime and Saddam. This is the very reason why the Syrian Government and its President Hafiz al-Asad disagreed with the session's being held in Baghdad. The longstanding differences between Iraq and Syria on ideological topics, political inclinations, the imposed war, and the Lebanese crisis foiled all the mediation efforts by the Saudi crown prince at first and by the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi over the past few days to gain the Syrian Government's consent to send a representative to the Baghdad session.

Also absent from the Arab summit is the Lebanese Government. Even though Lebanon is so weak because of various reasons—such as the civil war and the president's absence from the presidential palace—its absence from the Baghdad summit will be perceptible and nevertheless shows that the Lebanese crisis is absent from the summit's agenda. This, in itself, emphasizes the weakness of Arab society and its incapability to implement the al-Ta'if plan, which it itself approved.

Reference can also be made to the non-participation of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Morocco's King Hasan in the Baghdad session. These two, along with King Fahd and the heads of the tripartite Arab committee, are assigned the duty of solving the crisis in Lebanon. The al-Ta'if plan—which is the fruit of this very tripartite committee—has been grounded because of the clash among foreign powers' interests in Lebanon.

As far as the threat against the security of the Arab race because of the emigration of Soviet Jews and the effects of this especially on Palestine and Jordan are concerned, many observers believe that this will be the first time the Arab governments will try to review their relations with the Soviet Union. However, no major development is expected. In its present form and with its current political inclinations, Arab society lacks a powerful tool to confront the emigration of Soviet Jews, especially when both Moscow and Washington want this emigration to continue and both have sent letters to the Arab summit in Baghdad.

There are also other issues which threaten the security of the Arab race. These are the poverty of some Arab countries, the population boom, famine and food crises in some other countries, and the water crisis after the one-month closure of the Euphrates. But the Arab heads have remained practically silent on these threats and have not held any session or conference to discuss these problems because of their inability to find a solution to them.

Finally, the uprising of the Palestinian people will naturally enjoy a special place at the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad, especially since this summit is being held after the UN Security Council session in Geneva to discuss the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Howevever, it is clear that the return of Egypt, the only Arab country which has signed a peace pact with the Israeli regime, to Arab society dampens hopes for a strong resolution condemning the Zionist regime's acts. Moreover, most of the Arab governments have avoided extending any financial assistance to support the uprising—something which was approved during the Arab summit in Algiers.

Thus, in view of the vast differences of views among some of the members and the absence of a number of Arab heads, the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad cannot be expected to have strong and effective results.

Foreign Ministry Denounces Summit's Iraq Support

LD3105110590 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 31 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 31, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry in a statement Thursday [31 May] described the stance of the Baghdad summit on [the] Arvand River [Shatt al-'Arab] as "invalid, illegitimate and in contradiction with Iraq's peace gestures." In its statement, the Iranian Foreign Ministry warned against adverse consequences of the summit's resolution, ended in the Iraqi capital Wednesday [30 May]. It stressed that surrender of the Arab heads of state to the Iraqi "illegitimate demand" over Arvand River, further revealed [the] "destructive role" these countries played in the 8-year old imposed war.

The "irresponsible position" adopted by the summit toward Iran-Iraq peace talks, not only revealed futility of Iraq's peace-seeking claims, but brought under question the stance of Arab states in materialisation of a lasting peace between the two nations and security and stability in the region," noted the statement. "Supporting Baghdad's expansionist claims not only will fail to restore peace and security in the region but by perpetuating the state of no war no peace will pave the way for Iraq's territorial claims over those same countries which back Iraq in its claims," Foreign Ministry warned.

The statement, pointing to contradictions in the resolution, said that on the one hand it speaks of materialisation of peace within the framework of the U.N. Resolution 598 under the supervision of the U.N. secretary general. On the other hand, it emphasizes release of prisoners of war (POWs) prior to withdrawal of forces to the internationally recognized borders.

"Arab heads of state know well that according to the proposed plan of the U.N. secretary general, enjoying full support of the Security Council, withdrawal of forces and exchange of pows are priorities of the resolution," noted the statement.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a positive step toward the implementation of the resolution and establishment of a lasting peace, has proposed simultaneous implementation of the two priorities, the Foreign Ministry added.

It stressed that through such resolutions neither the Iraqi regime will achieve its expansionist objectives nor its supporters in the region and the Arab world will be able to safeguard interest of big powers against the interests of the regional nations.

This attitude, the statement emphasized, will only serve the objective of expansionist powers of the world which are following the policy of "divide and rule". "Peace is possible through the implementation of the Resolution 598 and committment to international accords," it concluded.

Khatami Speech Defines 'Neither East nor West'

LD3005123390

[Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0934 GMT on 30 May carries a 48-minute live or recorded talk by Islamic Guidance Minister Mohammad Khatami. The date, place and occasion of the speech are not given.

Khatami recalls Khomeyni's thoughts, notably on his idea of the principle of neither East nor West. Most of his talk is devoted to explaining the philosophical and ideological aspects of this concept. He summarizes it by saying that the principle means that societies should strive to reach the heights of their own capacities, so as not to become subservient to hegemonious powers and so as to have the ability to choose what is in their best interest in terms of advanced technology, scientific progress, and so forth. Khatami states that this is what the imam hoped the Islamic Republic would achieve and concludes by emphasizing that the Islamic Republic will always be a refuge for the world's true Muslims.

Lebanese Hizballah Leaders Meet With Khatami

LD2505114890 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—Visiting secretary of the Lebanese Hizballah Sheykh Subhi al-Tufayli today condemned the Saudi Government's ban on the Iranian pilgrims as 'an anti-Islamic move to the liking of the U.S.' Al-Tufayli made the remark in a meeting with Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami, where he also briefed the minister of [as received] the superpower's propaganda against the universal Islamic movement in Lebanon. Vowing that Hizballah will continue its fight against the Zionist regime, he also called for more cultural and publicity cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Hizballah.

Khatami in return described the clashes between Shi'ite groups in Lebanon as 'the biggest tragedy' and said Islam's sworn enemies were obviously preparing to take advantage of these clashes. 'The Islamic revolution is in fact a universal Islamic movement which started in Iran, and Hizballah is a ray of hope for Muslims in various arenas,' Khatami said.

Meet Relief Committee Official

LD3005090690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Mr. Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, secretary general of the revolutionary Hizballah Movement of Lebanon, who is in Tehran today met with Mr. 'Askar-Owladi, the representative of vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult] in the Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee. At the meeting the secretary general of the revolutionary Hizballah Movement of Lebanon, submitting a report about the situation in Lebanon, expressed his appreciation for the services of the Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee to the Muslims, especially the deprived, in that country, and called for the expansion of these facilities, especially in the fields of health and education.

In his remarks, he stressed the complete adherence of the revolutionary Hizballah Movement to the goals and aspiration of his eminence the imam—may his noble soul be sanctified—and vali-ye amr [guardian of the cause] of the Muslims, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

The representative of vali-ye faqih in the Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee, welcoming the secretary general of the Hizballah Movement of Lebanon, stressed the need for the unity of all Islamic and nationalist groups in Lebanon. Reviewing the history of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the prophet-like leadership of the imam of the ummah, said: The East and the West are striving to ensure that Islam will not gain sovereignty in Lebanon. They are trying to deprive the Lebanese Muslims of their legitimate rights through the creation of differences. The Muslims of Lebanon, by maintaining complete unity, should fight against the usurping Israel and the enemies of Islam, so that with God's help they can achieve final victory.

Editorial on Kuwaiti 'Suppression' of Shiites

NC2605122990 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Kuwait Cannot Solve Internal Security Problem by Suppression"]

[Text] The Kuwaiti regime has begun since Saturday [12 May], the trial of four Kuwaiti Shiite Muslims on charges of involvement in car-bomb attack on the head office of Kuwait Air Ways in May 1986. The indictment has also charged the accused with smuggling firearms and explosives and forming a group with the aim of toppling the Kuwaiti regime.

In their first appearance at the state security court the accused have strongly denied all charges and stressed the raps brought against them are all fabrications.

It is about seven months the four men are incarcerated on no legal basis. Perhaps the Kuwaiti prosecutors have used the entire period to think on ways and charges by which they may nail down the four Muslims. Or, the prosecution would not take seven long months to start in the first place especially when it concerns such serious charges. Besides, the fact that the prosecution is proceeding behind closed doors adds up to such suspicion.

The heavy-handedness of the Kuwaiti court in treating that country's Shiite community however is not hidden from anyone. The court's suppressive anti-Shiite policies underscore one thing: The Kuwaiti regime has regrettably chosen to join the funny games and dump-campaigns the Saudi regime has masterminded against the Shiites especially in recent years. In fact Shiites have been subject to systematic persecution, at times leading to outright execution, in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Bahrain and Kuwait especially since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. The Wahhabi regime of Saudi Arabia in particular is spending huge sums of money and employing vast media resources in its mud-throwing campaign against Shiites. This campaign introduces the Shiites as elements of terror and terrorism. At the theoretical level, Saudi Wahhabism's anti-Shiite activities have taken ridiculous dimensions indeed. Some pseudo-clerics related to the Saudi regime have gone as far as even accusing the Shiite doctrine of apostacy!

The Kuwaiti regime is playing the game the way the Saudis want it. Internal instability too has of course played a role in motivating the Kuwaiti court to play into the hands of the Saudis in their anti-Shiite moves.

But the Kuwaiti court should be aware that suppression of freedom-loving Shiites will not solve their domestic instability problem. The regime, a historically defunct system, a despotic one that does not allow its people to have even a rubberstamp parliament, should realize that its problem is an intrinsic one. The system needs to correct itself rather than suppress and accuse of subversive activities anyone calling for reforms.

Commentary Criticizes Syrian Ties With Egypt

NC2505144690 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 9 May 90 p 8

[Political commentary: "The Forerunners of Camp David II"]

[Excerpts] The announcement of the convocation of an extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad has once again ignited the flames of past malice among brothers. A series of visits and the dispatch of messages revolving around the convening of a unified session in Baghdad have been set in motion. The extraordinary summit is taking place at a time when the participating heads are more out of touch with public opinion in their nation than ever before.

The previous Arab summits are evidence of the fact that most of the discussion sessions were devoted to the resolution of internal differences and dissonances in forging mutual fraternal relations and to the attainment of a united stance on the problems of the Arab world, the major part of which stems from the existence of the regime occupying Jerusalem.

Today, Saudi dollar diplomacy has announced its support for the Baghdad regime which, according to international public opinion, has no respect among the Arabs. By convening this summit in Baghdad, the Saudis are striving to salvage Saddam's lost political prestige.

As a pole of activity in the Arab world, Syria—which, prior to the summit, once again received the green light for resolving its economic problems from the obsequious and opulent Arab countries—takes its position alongside Husni the "unauspicious" [Mubarak means auspicious] so that the Cairo regime can regain an upright stature among the Arabs and the so-called spirit of the Arab world may be infused in their fraternity.

According to informed observers who follow Middle East developments closely, there is no room for doubt that the occupied Jerusalem regime, in the throes of decline resulting from the popular uprising in the occupied areas, also feels a sort of strength. This is because Tel Aviv, with the unstinting support of Washington and the fresh deluge of Soviet Jewish emigres, considers itself an undisputed power in the region, and endeavors to sow serious discord among the Arabs in order to extort greater concessions.

Various remarks on the convening of a conference on peace in the Middle East on the part of the Zionists should be interpreted by Arab countries as the first step toward a demand for recognition. One cannot imagine even for a moment that the usurpist regime would ever sit at a negotiating table prior to recognition by the Arab governments. [passage omitted]

When Sadat signed the Camp David accords, the Arab countries churned out thousands of commentaries for the world on this shameless deceit, embassies were closed, and we even witnessed the deployment of troops, but today the heirs of Camp David are being welcomed with smiles and even with a sense of pride.

From a country like Syria, which considers itself the heir and sole supporter of the struggles of the Arabs against the Zionists, one may well ask whether tomorrow it will not participate in the task of recognizing Israel, when only yesterday it was clasping Mubarak's hands in a brotherly manner and today it is receiving numerous invitations to participate in the Baghdad summit.

Commentary on Afghanistan's Political Future

NC2005094090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0448 GMT 20 May 90

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group: "Afghanistan and Its Political Future"]

[Text] Discussions about Afghanistan's political future these days are focusing on how elections in that country are to be held. Each group involved in the Afghanistan problem believes that, under current conditions, elections will legitimize its stand whatever form these elections take.

Some time ago, some of the Peshawar-based Afghan groups put forward a plan for elections in Afghanistan, despite the many obstacles such a plan one would face and despite the current situation in that country. The Kabul regime, in full concordance with the objectives of world powers, has called for elections under the supervision of the United Nations. The Afghan mujahidin based in the Islamic Republic of Iran have rejected the plan put forward by some of the Afghan mujahidin in Peshawar because of its failure to include all mujahidin and refugees.

There is no doubt that the problem of Afghan refugees, particularly the 5 million refugees living in Iran and Pakistan, will influence the form elections are to take. Referring to false promises about the elections by the leaders of the Pakistan-based mujahidin, an official of the Islamic Unity Party spoke about conflicts among these leaders over election plans.

Meanwhile, and at a time when UN officials report that significant numbers of Afghan refugees are daily returning to the eastern and southern areas of their country, the Kabul regime's recent air attacks on these areas have been criticized by the United Nations. UN officials believe that these attacks may dissuade many refugees from returning home.

Political experts following developments in Afghanistan list the repatriation of Afghan refugees, an issue which will have a decisive influence on the form elections are to take, as a major topic of dispute among the sides involved in the Afghanistan problem. In connection with this, it should be pointed out that the Marxist regime, which once displaced millions of Afghans by bombing villages and residential areas in what some political observers saw as an effort to cut off support for the Afghan mujahidin, is now bombing relatively calm Konar in east Afghanistan and Qandahar in the south, thus trying to end the Afghan refugees' political support for the Afghan mujahidin groups. These steps are being taken at a time when some of Afghan groups are acting on their own in political and even military efforts while ignoring the other effective groups in the Afghan Muslim nation's 11-year jihad against the communist regime's occupying forces, are resorting to a policy of spreading discord among the ranks of the mujahidin.

There is no doubt that, at this sensitive juncture in Afghanistan's history, these groups are placing their own interests above national interests. This comes at a time when the experience of the consultative council, the formation of the interim government, and the military defeat in Jalalabad have proven that no group can chart the political future of Afghanistan on its own in a way that will guarantee the practical participation of all combatant groups in that country.

Meanwhile, in view of both domestic developments in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from that country and world developments, the pro-Zahir Shah nationalists and elements dependent on the Kabul regime are looking for an opportunity to play a part in Afghanistan's political future with the support of the two superpowers. However, these elements have not correctly assessed their standing among the Afghan nation.

Those who will have a role to play in Afghanistan's political future and in the formation of an independent Islamic and nonaligned government will be those who played an effective role in the many years of struggle for Afghanistan's historic and Islamic identity and, even more important, for their country's independence and not those who paved the way for left- or right-wing colonialists and sacrificed their country to serve the objectives of international ideologies which have now crumbled.

It has become increasingly obvious that, in view of domestic, regional, and international developments, there can be no military solution to the Afghanistan issue. The discussions about a political solution to the Afghanistan problem which have been emphasized by Afghanistan's neighbors—Pakistan and Iran—should be able to ultimately fulfill the wishes of the oppresed Afghan nation. These wishes—as manifested in the Iranian-Soviet joint communique issued during Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's historic trip to Moscow—center on Afghanistan's historic identity and its status as an independent, Islamic, and nonaligned country which will have friendly relations with all its neighbors.

At any rate, whatever government comes to power in Afghanistan will not last long if it ignores these elements and does not have the support of all Afghan Muslims. There is no doubt that the precondition for the existence of an Islamic, nonaligned, and independent Afghanistan is the recognition of the Muslim Afghan nation's right to political self-determination coupled with nonintervention by world powers in this country's domestic problems. Despite the possible agreements that may have been reached between the heads of U.S. and Soviet diplomacy on the eve of the superpower summit, political observers believe that no solution—even if political—will be effective if it ignores the wishes of the Afghan Muslim nation and if it does not place affairs in the hands of the Afghans. The nine-year experience of occupying Afghanistan for the Soviet Union and the political-propaganda overtures about the future of Afghanistan by the United States and its reactionary minions in the region show that Afghanistan should be ruled by its Muslim people and remain far removed from the defeated policies of protecting domination and strategic and tactical interests.

Bush, Mitterrand 'Id Al-Fitr Messages Viewed

NC2505151890 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 29 Apr 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Satan's Message"]

[Excerpts] "We are happy to extend our sincere congratulations to all the Muslims in America on the holy and auspicious 'Id al- Fitr...The 'Id al-Fitr is an opportunity to recognize once again the services and constructive steps by the American Muslims in our society..." [passage omitted]

Who could have sent this message to the American Muslims? Who is addressing the Muslims so affectionately? It may be unbelievable, but the truth is that these are the hypocritical words of U.S. President George Bush to the American Muslims. He also spoke about "the teachings of the prophet of Islam, Mohammad the son of God" and referred to peace, tolerance, and justice as "the common tradition of all the major religions that started in the Middle East."

Almost at the same time, French President Francois Mitterrand sent a nearly identical message to the leaders of the Muslims in France. Expressing hopes that "mutual understanding will deepen," he called on the Muslims to talk and to show tolerance toward the beliefs of others.

The question is: Why—despite all the overt hostility that America and France have toward Islam and the Muslims; despite the great scandal in France within the framework of the "war of head dresses" and of the vicious destruction of Muslim mosques; and despite all the spite that Washington has shown everywhere toward the Muslims and Islam—are such messages being suddenly sent? Why are America and France, which so impudently became involved in the Rushdie affair, suddenly speaking about "the deepening of mutual understanding" and "the Muslims' efforts to preserve the ancient principles and valuable legacy of religion?" What has changed to make the West feel the need to show flexibility?

The truth is that the West realizes with disbelief that Islam is operating as "an immense stimulating force" in the contemporary world and has enraptured the world of Islam and all those who are enamoured with Islam. During the past decade, the West has constantly tried deliberately to ignore this immense power and to solve its problems by resorting to harsh, inhuman, and even denigrating methods, but in vain.

It is precisely because of this that the messages from the leaders of America and France on 'Id al-Fitr manifest the strength of the Muslims and the fact that they can no longer be deliberately ignored. They show that America and France do not see it to their benefit to ignore the Muslims because they feel that they will be the ones to suffer from the grave consequences of this policy.

The truth is that Islam is a fact in the contemporary world and it has proven its presence in the political-social scenes of nations on a world level in the best way.

Under such conditions the fact that the leaders of America and France issued messages on 'Id al-Fitr should be interpreted as the confession of an undeniable truth. But we should not ignore the fact that the West wants to make this confession in a delicate and hypocritical way so that it will not be interpreted as a defeat.

These messages hypocritically try to paint a just picture of the American and French Governments. But even if today they may have adopted this stand, this was not the stand that they propounded until yesterday.

Precisely because of this, "today's justice-seeking gestures" should not be naively accepted. These "justice-seeking gestures" may only be another face of the same satanic policies of the past and of the same objectives of the past. But, at the same time, they could be the commencement of a new phase in developments as well.

We should all accept the fact that we are living in a century when religion and the grandeur of divine teachings are being revived. The first signs of this phenomenon were seen in Islamic Iran and sparked off such an immense storm in the world that, 10 years after that miraculous event, the course of events in the eastern bloc genuinely proved the indubitable strength of the nations' return to religion. And today the West feels that it is confronting this powerful phenomenon.

All existing facts show that the messages by the American and French presidents do not stem from their sincere feelings but from their understanding that, despite their intrinsic wishes, this immense and powerful phenomenon has proven its proud presence, is reorganizing international relations along new lines acceptable to the nations, is offering a new model which responds to the interests of nations, and above all, is based on humanitarian principles.

If these messages can be taken as signs of realism in the West, then they should be welcomed. But, at the same time, we should alertly, confidently, and clear-sightedly take everything into consideration, think about our next steps, and then decide. In addition to all these, we should also bear in mind that America and France may have wanted to harness the raging tempest of Islam in the world with their acts and show that the sharp blade of the anti-arrogant attacks by the world movement of Islam is not aimed at them, since they have many things in common with the Muslims! This is a major point which should be considered as the line that divides American-style Islam and pure Mohammadan Islam. Any sly effort by the West within the framework of instilling doubts or doing away with the obvious "essential differences" between American-style Islam and pure Mohammadan Islam should be revealed alertly and firmly.

Technical Cooperation Accord Signed With France

LD2505033590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] On the basis of a memorandum of understanding, Iran and France will cooperate in technical and scientific activities, transfer of technology, and training of specialist staff.

On the basis of the memorandum of understanding, which was signed at the geological organization premises today, the two sides agreed to have close cooperation in technical and scientific activities, exchange of lecturers, training of specialist staff, exchange of knowledge, preparation and provision of geological equipment and of geological and mining computer software.

Also, the two sides will appraise the implementation of joint ventures in other countries.

Editorial Decries French 'Double Standards'

NC2605120990 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "France and Its Double Standard of Human Rights"]

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand, his Prime Minister Michel Rocard and some other top-ranking officials took part in a rally held in Paris last Monday [14 May] against racism and anti-semitism.

The rally was convened to protest the desecration of a Jewish cemetery in France last week. The reports had it that the French president was so "appalled" by the insult to the Jewish community that he spent almost one hour in the rally preceding the protest march. It was indeed the first time a French head of state attended a public protest. This shows how considerate of human rights, and, particularly how committed to the Jewish community the French president is.

Well as far as desecration is concerned this has to be utterly condemned by all regardless of against whom such an inhuman act might have taken place. Moslems too, in view of their religious teachings, are one with all those who deplore desecration of the Jewish tomb in France.

But what is shocking, in fact even appalling, is the French president's, and, virtually France's, double standards of democracy and respect for human rights.

By his participation in the march Mitterrand wanted to stand by democratic and human rights norms his government and country boast of having pioneered. So far so good. But the picture becomes appallingly turbid and obnoxious when one remembers that the same Mr. Mitterrand resoundingly failed in showing any sign of respect and sympathy when in regards to similar acts of desecration and blasphemy, which is even worse, when it concerned Moslems and their religious sensibilities and sanctities.

The reference is made to the issue of Salman Rushdie's blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" which was among the most injurious texts ever written in desecrating Islamic sanctities respected of a billion-strong religious community.

In spite of worldwide protest by Moslems the so-called cradle of democracy, Paris, did not move to even express a verbal condemnation of the book and its author who had trampled upon the most basic rights of Moslems, their right to protection of their religious sanctity. To add insult to injury the French government even condemned Iran for its zeal to defend religious rights of Moslems and sanctities of Islam.

A more recent issue was last year's brawl in France over the insistence of Moslem school girls to stick to their religious code of dress for women. They were expelled and initially the very-committed-to-human-rights government of Paris turned a blind eye to its Moslem citizens' demand for protection of their religious right stemming from their civic rights, according to French legal system.

France's double standards of democracy and human rights, and respect for sanctities of groups appear to be politically motivated. They betray claims of commitment to human rights and democracy and as such are very unfortunate and deplorable.

French Ambassador on 'Mission of Reconciliation'

LD3005124490 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., May 30, IRNA—French Ambassador to Tehran Christian Graeff currently visiting here, Tuesday [29 May] called on Hojjat ol-Eslam Abbas Va'ez Tabasi, superintendent of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (a.s.) [peace be upon him], the eight imam of the Shiite Muslims.

The French diplomat told the hojat ol-eslam that he is on a mission of reconciliation on behalf of French President Francois Mitterrand and that he is carrying a message of friendship and solidarity from the French Government and nation for the Iranian people.

Ambassador Graeff who is accompanied by several members of his embassy further told Hojjat ol-Eslam Va'ez Tabasi that France has special respect for the Iranian nation and that presently conditions are better than ever for future cooperation. He said that the French president will consider the meeting as a significant step and added that it will enable him to further mobilize his efforts for expansion of Tehran-Paris ties.

Hojjan ol-Eslam Va'ez Tabasi who is also special representative of the leader in the province told the visiting diplomat that Iran is interested in friendly relations with all governments with the exception of few, those which have been hostile to Iran in the past decade. He stressed that the Islamic republic of Iran sincerely strives towards this objective. Hojjat ol-Eslam Va'ez Tabasi expressed hope that such meetings pave the way for greater understanding and better relations to the benefit of the two nations of France and Iran.

France 'Ready' To Help Build Mashhad Subway

LD3105090190 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 31 May 90

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., May 31, IRNA—France is ready to cooperate with Iran in construction of underground railway and other city transportation projects in the eastern province of Khorasan, French Ambassador to Tehran Christian Graeff currently visiting here said in a meeting with Khorasan Mayor Akbar Saberi-Far Wednesday 30 May].

Graeff also in a meeting with the provincial governor general Ali Jannati Tuesday [29 May] announced his country's readiness to assist the province in research, medical, industrial and technical projects and provide the necessary facilities for the airports in this province. During the meeting, Jannati stressed that Khorasan Province enjoys the potentials and resources for implementation of such projects and that bilateral cooperations can have a positive impact on Tehran-Paris relations.

Graeff accompanied by his advisors and cultural attache is on a one-week tour of the province since last Monday.

*Border Agreement With USSR Effective 22 May

90AS0068I London KEYHAN in Persian 10 May 90 p 3

[Text] On Sunday [6 May] in Maku, Mir Esma'il 'Aliyev, the prime minister of Nakhjavan, who headed a delegation to Iran, agreed to the start of the border crossing of the inhabitants of the two sides of the Iran-Soviet border. According to this agreement, it has been decided that from the beginning of Khordad [22 May] this year, within the framework of a consular agreement in principle which was signed last year in Moscow and with regard for the regulations accepted by the border officials on both sides, the inhabitants of the two sides of the border may start free border crossing.

In the negotiations between the prime minister of Nakhjavan and the governor of Maku, it was decided that the connecting bridge between Takdagh on the Iranian side and Tekrumeh on the Soviet side on the southern part of the Aras River be used after it is built and another crossing point in Pol Dasht, which is across from Shahtakhti of the Soviet Union, be created with the construction of a bridge.

Also on Sunday this week, on an exceptional basis, the Azerbaijanis of both sides of the Aras River were permitted to visit their relatives for three hours. This visit took place in Sanam Balaghi, located in the north of Poldasht, during which time 3,000 inhabitants of the two sides of the border visited each other.

It should be pointed out that the regime of the Islamic Republic had insisted that on the Fitr holiday the borders of the two countries be opened in Azerbaijan in order for the people of the two sides to visit each other, but the Soviet officials did not agree to this request.

Soviet Muslims To Be Permitted To Visit Iran

LD3005170190 Tehran IRNA in English 1302 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Tabriz (East Azarbaijan), May 30, IRNA—Moghan Governorate, which borders the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, has positively responded to growing demands from Muslims across the border for attending the 1st anniversary ceremonies of Imam Khomeini's passing away. "Necessary facilities have been made for Soviet citizens to cross into Iran via the Bilehsawar border point for mourning ceremonies," Moghan Governor Br. Sabeti said Wednesday.

As in other parts of the Muslim world, the leader of the Islamic revolution who left for his heavenly abode on June 3 last year, was greatly loved and admired by Muslims in the Soviet Union.

On the agreement inked by Tehran and Moscow last year for cross border travel, Sabeti said that the Islamic Republic is ready to put the accord into effect as soon as the Soviet Union announces its preparedness. According to the accord, people living on both sides of the border can travel to the other side within a 45 km radius four times a year. Each trip should not last more than 15 days, he said.

Sabeti said that since the signing of the accord, Iran has started building new customs office and installations at Bilehsawar border point, part of which are to become operational soon.

Malaysian Minister Meets Velayati 23 May

LD2405111690 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday [23 May] voiced his country's support for full implementation of Resolution 598 seeking to end the Iraqi conflict. Omar also expressed hope that a lasting peace would be established in this sensitive region once the resolution ws fully enforced.

Velayati briefed his Malaysian counterpart on the latest developments in the peace process with Iraq. Referring to the issue of Palestine, he said "in view of the crimes being committed by the regime occupying al-Quds [Jerusalem], it is necessary for Islamic countries to think of seriously countering this usurper regime." Velayati expressed hope that Muslim states would assume a more active role in this regard during the forthcoming session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

The Malaysian foreign minister arrived in Tehran Wednesday morning to attend the 2nd Iran-Malaysia joint economic commission which opened here today.

Meets President, Commerce Minister

LD2605091690 Tehran IRNA in English 1332 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar today told President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today that the aim of his visit to Tehran was to explore ways of expanding mutual ties. Omar, who is attending the 2nd Iran-Malaysia joint economic commission, described the session as an "important factor" for removing obstacles and increasing trade between the two countries.

He said that both Iran and Malaysia share common views on many international issues and thought that "a durable peace in the region is tied to the full implementation of U.N. Resolution 598." Abu Hassan said that Malaysia as a member of the U.N. Security Council and the organization of the Islamic Conference would do all within its power to help establish a lasting peace in the region.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that expansion of tourism could be a means of promoting mutual ties in view of the interest of the two Muslim peoples in exchanging visits, and with regards to the fact that there are direct air and sea links betwee the two states.

Abu Hassan extended an invitation from the Malaysian king to Hojjat ol-eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani for an official visit to Kuala Lumpur.

In a separate meeting with Commerce Minister 'Abdul-Hoseyn Vahaji today, the Malaysian official discussed ways of promoting bilateral ties in various fields, strengthening trade exchanges and increasing non-oil imports from Iran. The two agreed that the newly established airlink between the two countries, their participation in each other's international trade fairs and exchange of economic delegations were "positive factors" which have helped increase bilateral relations.

Abu Hassan who arrived here yesterday, invited Vahaji to pay an official visit to Malaysia, which the latter accepted.

Kenyan Minister Biwott Meets Velayati 23 May

LD2405123990 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—The foreign minister today voiced the Islamic Republic's support for freedom movements in Southern Africa and strongly condemned the Zionist regime for its cold-blooded massacre of Palestinian Muslims in occupied al-Quds [Jerusalem]. 'Ali Akbar Velayati made the remarks in a meeting with Kenyan Minister of Energy and Regional Development Nicholas Biwott who arrived here Tuesday night [22 May] at the head of a delegation.

Velayati also welcomed peace proposals and implementation of Resolution 598, and expressed hope that the recent exchange of letters with Iraq would help enforce 598.

Biwott said that Kenya favors expansion and deepening of ties with the Islamic Republic. On the issue of Palestine, Biwott said the Palestinians themselves should decide their fate and that "we will not tolerate aggression against human rights."

Meets With President

LD2605093690 Tehran IRNA in English 1308 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his meeting with Kenyan Energy Minister Nicholas Biwott today, called on African countries to be vigilant and "coordinate ways to win back the denied rights of the South African people."

"We are standing by the African people in this regard," he reiterated.

Biwott conveyed to the Iranian president a message from his Kenyan conterpart Daniel Arap Moi, and briefed him on Nairobi's stance towards the South African apartheid regime and newly independent Namibia.

The Kenyan minister who arrived here last Tuesday [22 May], also termed the United Nations Resolution 598 which seek to end the Iraqi conflict, "a good framework for restoration of peace in the region."

Finnish Trade Minister Meets With Counterpart

LD2705151690 Tehran IRNA In English 1215 GMT 27 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA—The Finnish Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry Bror Wahlroos today voiced his country's readiness to expand ties with the

Islamic republic. Wahlross who is here to attend the joint Iran-Finland economic commission made the remark in a meeting with deputy foreign minister for euro-america Mahmud Va'ezi. He suggested that officials of the two countries meet after the the commission and signing of a protocol on economic and commercial cooperation, to follow up proper implementation of the projects.

Va'ezi in turn supported Helsinki's stress on economic balance between the two countries and lauded Finland as an impartial country in connection with the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) and international cooperation.

Wahlross arrived here Friday night [25 May] on a two-day visit, heading a 24-man delegation.

Signs Trade Protocol

LD2705204190 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 27 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA—Iran and Finland today signed a protocol for mutual cooperation in various fields and exchange of goods worth dlrs 400M annually. The figure is to rise to dlrs two bn. within five years.

The protocol, inked by Finnish Deputy Minister of Trade and Industries Bror Wahlross and Iran's Deputy Commerce Minister Firuz Dolatabadi, also envisages joint investments as much as dlrs three bn within five years.

Dolatabadi said that a part of the investments to be made in wood and paper industries, agro-industrial units, cattle breeding and pastures, would be on by-back basis and the other part would be provided by the Finnish government.

Wahlross said that grounds for mutual cooperation have been singled out and that the Helsinki government was ready to finance the projects the two sides have agreed to implement.

He also announced his country's readiness to train Iranian manpower in technical and industrial fields included in the protocol.

The Finnish deputy minister arrived here on Friday [25 May] to partcipate in the 1st Tehran-Helsinki joint economic commission which concluded its work Sunday [27 May].

Editorials Pay Tribute to Imam Khomeyni

LD3105085790 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 31 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 31, IRNA—The three morning dailies Thursday [31 May] editorialized on the first anniversary of demise of the late leader of the Islamic revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni.

The Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' commenting on the issue said that the Iranian nation are to hold the ceremony in the most magnificant manner as to demonstrate their appreciation and pay due tribute to the great leader who put an end to the 2,500 year old diabolic system and repression. "It is a source of strength and pride for the revolution that both friends and foes of the revolution realise the Islamic revolution is advancing ahead on the path decided by the imam, the pattern set by the late leader and enjoying the strength and power that Imam Khomeyni gave to the revolution." The paper added that this is how the Iranian nation pay their tribute to the late imam and pledge their loyalty to his path, aspirations and ideals.

The other Persian daily 'ABRAR' said, "We are commemorating the first anniversary of demise of a man who did not rest a moment throughout his rich life so that oppression and injustice could not rest...a man who compelled by his faith, competence, zeal and independence changed the history and the world and who himself became a history." It added that the present generation and those to come are shouldering a grave responsibility bestowed upon them by the imam—to confront blasphemy, injustice by faith and emerge victorious.

ABRAR stressed that the heritage of the imam must be handed over from each generation to the next adding that the best way to commemorate imam's works is to pass them to those to come.

Another daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' stressed on the "unique purity and characteristic sincerity" of the imam in "word, thought and action." The English-language daily said, "The imam is loved for his revival of Islam after so many centuries of lethargy." The paper added, "Muslims had become so feeble and weak, he inspired life into them and awakened them to their history-making potential."

It believed that the imam opened the eyes of men, including many Muslims, "to divine values, brought religion back from the graveyard of history to the very arena of everyday life and struggle and taught them to rely on themselves and to stop aping alien values." Noting "He was...melted in Islam, sincerely and for God alone," the editorial continued, "that was why he could melt millions of individuals in himself helping them to lift their eyes from earth and its transitory benefits to heavens and for eternal values."

The TEHRAN TIMES concluded, "It was this sincerity and devotion to the cause of God that made Khomeyni the imam of oppressed and deprived. His memory will live as long as Islam lives and this shall be for ever."

Speaker Karrubi Outlines Majles Role, Duties

LD2805170790 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 28 IRNA—The speaker, addressing the 11th anniversary of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles) said today, "The Majles should supervise all the current affairs of the country."

The parliament, stressed Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, relies on the will and votes of the Iranian people and its deputies are responsible to the whole nation.

He referred to the Majles' role in countering foreign influences, and said that the 270 member body should review and approve all contracts and conventions signed with foreign countries in order to prevent any possible harm befalling the Islamic Republic.

"This reveals the vital and crucial role of the Majles," the chief of the legislature told the gathering attended among others by heads of the other two branches of state.

As long as teachings and guidelines of the founder of the Islamic republic, the late Imam Khomeyni, prevail in the country, "we are certainly immune against any local and foreign blows," he said.

Hoj. Karrubi was the vice-speaker during Hoj. Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's long tenure as head of the legislature, and became the speaker last August, following the latter's election as president of the Islamic Republic.

On activities of the Majles over the past decade, Karrubi said that so far a total of 1,421 open and 17,963 expert sessions have been held, during which 1,688 bills were debated and 793 approved.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam said the Majles has to date given 35 votes of confidence to different cabinets, and a total of 200 ministers.

"Over the past years 77,944 complaints have been studied by the committee formed under article 90, and some one million people have personally discussed their grievances with the deputies," he added.

Karrubi also cited several important bills and laws approved by the Majles since its inauguration in 1980, including the issue of the U.S. spies, Tehran-Washington financial disputes, impeachment and dismissal of President Abolhassan Bani Sadr (1981), political parties law, severance of ties with Britain, measures against U.S. state terrorism and approval of yearly budgets and the first 5-year development plan which went into effect this March.

Elections for the Islamic Consultative Assembly, popularly referred to as the Majles, now in its third term, are held every four years.

Speaks on Majles Anniversary

LD2805213690

[Editorial Report] Tehran Television Service in Persian at 1757 GMT on 28 May carries a recording of a speech by Majles Speaker Mehdi Karrubi at a ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Majles.

Karrubi begins by praising God, saluting the soul of Ayatollah Khomeyni and the martyrs of the Islamic revolution. He greets and thanks the guests and visitors present as well as all government officials, including the judicial branch chief and military and state personnel. He says the Islamic Republic system achieved victory on the basis of three destiny-making factors. The fundamental factor, he says, was pure Muhammedan Islam and its spiritual impact on people and on their movement. The second factor, he continues, was the unique and prophetic leadership of the dear imam, Khomeyni, who was able to unite and organize a nation in such a way that it was able to stnd in the face of the former monarchical, "despotic" regime, "dependent on the great satan." He says the third factor was the extensive and unified presence of the people on the scene of the struggle.

Karrubi continues, describing how people voted for the establishment of the Islamic Republic and how, on the orders of the imam, a new constitution was drawn up and put to the vote so, "the methods and nature of the Government of the Islamic Republic relies on the will and vote of the people." The Majles, he explains, has a special place in the Constitution and the imam also paid special attention to the Majles.

After going over some of the clauses of the Constitution concerning the Majles' responsibility toward the people and the rights of the deputies to express their opinions in the Majles, he describes the Majles as the "axis, center, and preserve of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran." He continues his speech by emphasizing the responsibility of the Majles in passing legislation to preserve the continuation of the revolution and to safeguard the system and says those principles that lay down the rights of expression for deputies, their parliamentary responsibilities and immunities and those principles concerning votes of confidence in the government should all be observed so that the "administrtive and executive systems of the country may remain healthy" so that "a day may not arrive, God forbid, that a dictatorship may emerge in the Islamic Republic system." These principles should be observed and the teachings and guidelines of the imam should be followed so as to immune the system against any local or foreign blows, he notes. Karrubi then quotes the imam on the importance of the Majles and the way he emphasized the following points in terms of the importance of the role of the Majles: that the Majles is the center of all legislation; the Majles guides and directs everyone; the Majles should be strengthened. The imam, he explains, expected this Islamic Majles to maintain the sovereignty of Islam; to attend to the oppressed and deprived; solve people's problems and finally maintain principle of: neither East nor West. He cites some examples of legislations passed during last 11 years of Majles sessions and also cites some figures with regards the good work carried out by that body.

At 1824 GMT he ends by thanking the audience again and wishing the people success.

Majles Defense Committee Member Interviewed

NC2405200090 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
29 Apr 90 p 2

[Excerpts] The eight years of bloody war imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran and the comprehensive support extended to the fomenter of this war by the arrogant world is still clear in the minds of the world public. The world of arrogance, which displayed its opposition to the revolution to all by standing by the side of Saddam during the eight years of the war, is now attempting to destroy the clear picture which is still vivid in the minds of the world public by resorting to a series of steps and to a carefully calculated effort in a bid to portray the Baghdad regime as its opponent and the opponent of Israel, its illegitimate offspring in the region. Therefore we see how all the arrogant world's propaganda devices have started a coordinated plan and commotion in order to hide the vile face of Saddam's mentors from the nations of the world.

In relation to this, we interviewed Mr. Fakhreddin Hejazi, member of the Majles Defense Committee, and we invite you to read this interview.

[ABRAR] In your capacity as a member of the Majles Defense Committee, how do you assess the recent propaganda by the pro-Western propaganda machinery which is trying to portray the Iraqi regime as an opponent of Israel and a regime that is against the West's interests, while, during the eight years of the destructive war imposed on the peoples of Iraq and Iran, the concordance of Saddam's policies with the West and Israel were clearly shown?

[Hejazi] Basically speaking, the nature of the Ba'athist regime should first be studied. For many years, Iraq has been a link in the chain of British colonialism which has been used to threaten Islamic revolutions. It has also been an exremely dangerous base in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

We consider the Iraqi Ba'athist party to be a Zionist organization, and we even consider the bombing of Iraq's nuclear center to have been a mere game and overture. The Islamic revolution of Iran, which was against Zionism and against the West, shook the Islamic nations. It was because of this that America and Israel ordered their mercenary Saddam and the Ba'athist party to attack Iran. Saddam thought that he could occupy the area between Khuzestan and Behbahan within a week and then overthrow the Islamic Republic. But what he ignored was the Iranian nation's resistance—something which the West could never believe. [passage omitted] The formation of the Ba'athist regime was tantamount to the creation of a second Israel in the area in order to prevent Islamic movements.

[ABRAR] In view of what you have said, how do you interpret the recent incidents and commotion concerning Iraq? In other words, what is behind all this?

[Hejazi] We should not underestimate the intifadah. This movement which has been going on for more than two years now in occupied Palestine has surprised the world and has placed the Zionist regime occupying Jerusalem before a bottleneck. On the one hand the intifadah has revealed the face of many of the Palestinian leaders who have been delaying the Palestinian nation for 40 years. Reactionary regimes are not supporting the intifadah because it has inflicted many blows on them. Therefore, various overtures have been made in the region in a bid to downplay the intifadah, especially since this movement is very similar to the Islamic revolution in Iran. But the relationship between 'Arafat and Saddam is weakening such deceits more and more.

[ABRAR] In relation to this, there is said that Iraq is being extensively armed with the most advanced weaponry (atomic and biological). In view of the fact that all of us know how the Ba'athist regime has been a great threat in the region, what steps have been foreseen in our country's Five-Year Plan as far as the strengthening of our Armed Forces is concerned?

[Hejazi] First of all, the imposed war itself showed the world that arms are not very effective. The agreement between the East and the West, the change in the Soviet Union's stands, and the rapprochement between the East and the West have all taken place because arms can no longer be effective and because these two should stop their fights and all their heavy expenditures on arms. What is important in a war now is first belief and faith, then strong manpower, and last technical and scientific strengths. As far as manpower is concerned, thank God we are strong. As far as faith is concerned, I can say that our faith is unprecedented in the world and we will never abandon the Koran, which is the source of our strength. As for arms, we are striving not to depend on foreigners for them.

In our Five-Year Plan, we have allocated budgets to arms and research. Of course I cannot go into details. I will give only one example. We have successfully concluded tests on a powerful missile. This test showed that we are fully advanced in the field of missiles.

Two months ago we tested this missile which we ourselves have manufactured. The test was successful. This missile has been manufactured jointly by the Armed Forces and the [Islamic Revolution Guards] Corps, and the experts of the two forces worked side by side in this project. We can say that we have achieved great success in the nuclear field. I should not go into more details on this. Of course we will never start a criminal war like the Iraqi regime. As an example, even though we have the equipment and the raw materials for biological and chemical weapons in hand, nevertheless, we never intend to arm ourselves with this weapon unless one day we have to do so to retaliate. But our war will never be inhuman. We want to give you the good tidings that our competent Iranian researchers and scientists are carrying out research both in the Armed Forces and in the Corps and they have scored successes which we will talk about in due course.

[ABRAR] What do you have to say about the aircraft industry?

[Hejazi] The repairs that were carried out on the Phantoms were immense and awe-inspiring efforts. We have an enormous capability in the Air Force, including the capability to manufacture aircraft. We have also scored many successes in the Navy. As for the arms that are acquired from abroad, we try not to acquire the weapons from only one source. We try to purchase from various sources so that we do not become involved in political problems.

[ABRAR] Is it true that under the terms of the protocol between Iran and Italy, that country is to provide arms to Iran?

[Hejazi] I consider Italy to be a complicated country and a country which has not behaved very well toward us. In particular, if it wants to deliver small battleships to Iraq, our relations with it will deteriorate greatly. Our political and economic relations too will be harmed. We are still at war. Peace has not been established. We only have the facade of a cease-fire. If Italy wants to arm Iraq, our Navy will confront Italy. Recently the Italian ambassador was summoned in relation to this. If they do deliver to Iraq, then the issue of arms purchases from Italy will be very weak. They have still not delivered a series of air equipment bought from them before the revolution.

Khamene'i Speaks to Ahl-e Beyt Conference 25 May

LD2605053190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution and the guardian of the cause [vali-e amr] of the world's Muslims, had a meeting this morning with participants in the international conference on the prophet's household [ahl-e beyt]. He pointed out that Islam is threatening the Zionists inside the occupied territories, and emphasized that with the liberation of Palestine the Muslims ultimately will regain the beloved Jerusalem from the hands of the aggressors.

In this meeting, which was held at the Imam Khomeyni Mosque, with the participation of religious, academic, and political figures who had taken part in the conference, the guardian of the Muslims' cause referred to the legitimate and just demands of the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan and Kashmir. He emphasized: In order to defend Islam, Muslims should make themselves strong and powerful. In the holy system, which has been established on the basis of religion and at the hands of the sons of the holy Prophet [reference to Khomeyni, who was believed to be a sayyid or a descendant of the prophet—FBIS]—may God's benedictions and salutations be upon him and his kin—by relying upon all the inherent and religious strength of our nation, we will move forward toward the true and real power of Islam. On this path we are confident of receiving God's support.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described love for the ahl-e beyt—peace be upon them—as a proud duty that has been accepted by all Islamic sects. He added: We who have learned the main principles and the minor details of religion from the revered ahl-e beyt of the Prophet—God's salutations and benedictions be upon him and his kin—should not imagine that ahl-e beyt—peace be upon them—belong only to us. Like their illustrious sire, the noble Prophet—God's salutations and benedictions be upon him and his kin—they belong to Islam, to the whole of humanity, and to history.

Pointing out that Muslims can agree and unite around the two axes of love for the ahl-e beyt—peace be upon them—and the learning of religion and divine teachings and injunctions from the mouth of ahl-e beyt—peace be upon them—the guardian of the Muslims' cause graciously said: These two points are great opportunities at the disposal of Muslims and the Islamic world. In particular, those who follow the life-giving ideology of ahl-e beyt—peace be upon them—and are proud of this allegiance can insure unity of expression among Muslims by stressing these two points.

In another part of his speech, the leader of the Islamic revolution described the sovereignty of Islam and the Koran and the raising of the banner of ahl-e beyt—peace be upon them—in Islamic Iran as the source of hope, enthusiasm, and a feeling of pride by Muslims throughout the world. Addressing the followers of the ideology of ahl-e beyt—peace be upon them—he said: You should become familiar with one another, and through joint cooperation and assistance you should solve your problems and undo the knots in your lives with your own hands. The followers of ahl-e beyt, wherever they are, should know that appropriate unity and solidarity among them will bring joy to the heart of the lord of the age [the hidden imam]—may God hasten his noble advent—because the immaculate imams—peace be upon them—always warned Muslims against disunity, schism, and division. They hated these things. Today their followers and lovers should follow in the same direction.

Stressing that all the followers of the ideology of Ahl-e Beyt—peace be upon him—constitute a part of the great Islamic ummah and Muslim community. The leader of the Islamic revolution said: The Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran neutralized many attempts of the vile enemies of Islam to create dissention among Muslims and to weaken their common bonds. Today various Islamic sects and denominations throughout the world chant slogans in the name of the Islamic Republic. Our illustrious late imam had a place in the hearts of the Muslim masses, and they loved him regardless of whatever Islamic sect or denomination they belonged to. It was this divine bond that forced our enemies to try to separate Islamic Iran from the rest of the Muslims.

The guardian of the Muslims' cause stressed: We followers of ahl-e beyt announce with our entire being that we believe in the unity of the Islamic world and the unity of those who believe in God's oneness and the prophethood of the noble Prophet—God's salutation and benediction be upon him and his kin. We wish to act like Imam 'Ali—peace be upon him—and the rest of the immaculate imams who were the symbols of struggle against tyranny and sources of unity and solidarity. And we wish to be the source of unity today.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described as useful and valuable the proposal for the setting up of the international Ahl-e Beyt Council for serving Islam, the Koran, the unity of Muslims, and the advancement of correct Islamic teachings. Stressing the need to strengthen the spirit of friendship and brotherhood in the Islamic world, he added: Today the entirety of Islam is being threatened by enemies, and religion itself is under pressure from world arrogance, led by the United States, because they have realised that with the sovereignty of religion and with the expansion and deepening of religious principles they will not be able to safeguard the international system of domination. Therefore, the intense campaign of the world powers against the Islamic Iran is due to Iran's propagation of faith, action, and jihad from this central axis of the world of Islam.

Concluding his speech, the guardian of the Msulims' cause referred to the issue of Palestine, saying: Usurping Zionists, after 40 years of comfort, now are being threatened by Islam inside the occupied territories. This comes at a time when the Palestinian organizations, which are alien to religion [secular Palestinian organizations], have proved their inability to fight the Zionist regime. We are confident that Islam will liberate Palestine at last and will regain the beloved Jerusalem from the hands of the aggressors.

According to the same report, before these remarks by the esteemed leader, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Taskhiri submitted a report about the proceedings of the international conference on ahl-e beyt—peace be upon them—to the esteemed leader. He said: The participants in this conference have unitedly asked for the formation of an international Ahl-e Beyt Council under the direction supervision of the guardian of the Muslims' cause.

Velayati, Larijani Attend Roundtable Discussion

NC3005071790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 May 90

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Velayati has said that the true test of Iraq's goodwill is its commitment to international pacts and to agreements between the two countries. The foreign minister, who was speaking at a political roundtable discussion yesterday afternoon in continuation of the sixth gathering of Friday imams from all over the country, described UN Security Council Resolution 598 as the most important axis for the solution of the differences between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister's political adviser also attended the roundtable discussion and analyzed recent world developments. Saying that in the future the world will be multi-polar, he stated that those countries which have based their policies on independence will have a bright future and will form a pole of power in the years to come.

At the end of the roundtable discussion, the Foreign Ministry spokesman referred to the arrest and trial of four Kuwaiti Muslims in that country. He said: The Foreign Ministry has adopted an active approach on this and has tendered the protest of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Government of Kuwait.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses IRGC Officials

NC2805085890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has described the duties of the officials in charge of the offices of the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult in the Armed Forces as important, and has called on the need to further acquaint the basiji [mobilization forces] youths with the country's problems and with constructive Islamic objectives.

The Central News Unit reports that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was speaking to officials in charge of the offices of the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] last night at a meeting held on the eve of the first anniversary of the demise of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, may God bless his soul. He pointed to the extremely significant duties of the officials in charge of the offices of the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult in the Armed Forces under the current conditions in the country.

The president stated: Talented, committed, and devoted forces have been absorbed by the IRGC since the outset of the revolution and the war. But these forces continually need training and should become acquainted with the country's problems. Also, the training of the IRGC basijis is of extreme significance, and basiji youths should be trained within the framework of the lofty and constructive Islamic ideals.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then pointed to the reasons for defeats suffered by recent revolutions in the world and added: Almost all the recent revolutions in the African countries, the East Bloc, and Latin America were defeated because of economic shortages. Of course, the Islamic Revolution is a cultural revolution and does not have any political and military problems. But what we should focus our attention on in this period, and what the leadership and the system are focusing on, are the removal of obstacles to production, the use of investment by the people, and the prevention of the exploitation of this investment by counterrevolutionary elements.

Our president described the steps taken within the country's economic structure as good. He said: Today the factories have been placed on the right road to production, and the people, the government, and the production units will benefit from this.

The report states that during this meeting Mr. 'Araqi, deputy representative of the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult in the IRGC, tendered a report on ideological, political, and cultural training as well as on the activities of the IRGC training centers.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Students 24 May

LD2505034190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 May 90

[Excerpts] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president and chairman of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council, today received members of Islamic societies of universities from all over the country.

During the meeting, he stressed that the essence of the policies of the system had been described during yesterday's meeting with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamane'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The policy of the government is anti-arrogance and entails the reconstruction. [passage omitted]

He said: In the reconstruction period, one of our revolutionary measures entails striving to be constructive, raising production, moving toward self-sufficiency, and reducing demand and reliance on the outside world.

He added: After giving up on trying to defeat us in various kinds of attacks, to kill Islam at its roots, and to deprive the revolution of its vitality, world arrogance has happened has hatched a conspiracy to disrupt our reconstruction policy, to make our nation and other revolutionary friends believe that the Islamic revolution is not capable of reconstruction.

World arrogance behaves abominably in attempting to reach this cursed goal and places obstacles in the way of the country's reconstruction. Sometimes it disheartens sympathetic officials and revolutionary people by spreading slogans through its secret agents which cause trouble and bring doubt. It also usurps or freezes our people's assets, properties, and lawful rights.

He stressed: We expect the revolutionary people, especially students, to foil this conspiracy of arrogance, and particularly of the United States, with correct analysis and by taking a proper stand in the matter, and by not allowing suspicious and sedicious agents to capitalize on their sacred sentiments. [passage omitted]

Referring to the fact that the return on investment of certain manufacturing units is low, he said: The message of the Five-Year Plan entails utilizing our resources, for all factories to operate at a reasonable capacity, for important and basic projects which are being implemented—on which about 500 billion tomans have been invested which are quickly depreciating due to the unusual delays in their implementation—to become operational as soon as possible, and for some of the problems of these noble, patient, and earnest people to be solved through higher production. [passage omitted]

*Iran To Support Iraq in Case of Israeli Attack

90AS0079J London KEYHAN in Persian 17 May 90 p 3

[Text] Iraq is the only country at the present time threatened by Israel, and its chemical weapons and atomic bomb facilities may be the target of air attacks by the Israeli Air Force. 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, deputy of the Islamic Republic Foreign Ministry, last Thursday [10 May] spoke in defense of any Arab country that is attacked by Israel and condemned the likelihood of such attacks.

Besharati unexpectedly called the discovery of the large gun parts of Iraq and the confiscation of the nuclear trigger device destined for Baghdad to be Western and Israeli propaganda attacks against Iraq and considered this a means for covering up the migration of Eastern European and Soviet Jews to Israel.

Since Iran is more than anyone else within range of the aggression of the regime of Iraq, if Iraq were to gain access to a nuclear bomb or establish artillery that could hit Tehran and other large cities of the country with chemical or atomic weapons, Besharati's statement has caused a wave of astonishment in diplomatic circles.

*Talks for Freedom of Hostages Continue 17 May

90AS0079K London KEYHAN in Persian 17 May 90 pp 1, 8

[Text] Hoseyn Sheykh-ol-Eslam, the Islamic deputy minister of foreign affairs, who had traveled to Damascus last Thursday [10 May], submitted the written message of Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Hafiz al-Asad, the president of Syria.

In Damascus, it was said that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message to Hafiz al-Asad concerned the two issues of the hostages and the letter of Saddam Husayn, and Hashemi-Rafsanjani is trying to put the release of the Western hostages on a reliable course, with the help of Syria.

Although Husayn al-Musawi, one of the leaders of Hizballah, who has taken on the role of spokesman of Hizballah on the issue of the Western hostages, announced last Wednesday that if the United States does not give any concessions in exchange for the released American hostages, Hizballah might kill one of them, this threat had little effect on the international climate and did not cause particular concern, because the Islamic Republic was able in practice to attain some of its demands in the Hague, London, and Dublin.

The settlement over the small financial claims at the Hague Court, which could have cost the Islamic Republic at least $750 million, was considered a personal reward for the release of the two hostages. In exchange for $105 million, the United States agreed to settle the claims of the claimant companies directly. Such a settlement profited the Islamic Republic by at least $800 million, some of which will certainly be paid to the hostage-takers in order to increase the likelihood of a release of more hostages.

At present, the hostage takers have tied the release of the next hostages to the release of Sheykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and hundreds of Arab prisoners in the (Khayyam) Israeli Camp in southern Lebanon. But the government of Israel has announced that until three missing Israeli military men are sent back to Israel, it will not release anyone.

Nevertheless, it is possible that, as was done in regard to the release of the American hostages Robert Polhill and Frank Reed, in regard to other hostages as well, they will find an excuse to release them even without the release of Sheykh 'Ubayd and the Palestinian prisoners.

In the meantime, the Israeli authorities, in order to urge the Hizballah to deal with Israel, revealed the name of one important hostage, a member of the Hizballah who was captured by the Israelis about a year ago.

Israeli officials announced that they are prepared to also release Davud Kashfi, who belongs to the Hizballah group Jebhe-ye E'teqad [Dogma Front], in exchange for the three Israeli military men.

Last week, the American Senator Daniel Patrick Moynahan asked the Israeli government to agree to the release of the Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners.

Davud Kashfi, whose importance has now attracted attention, is one of two persons the Israelis were trying to capture last year. The second person, who escaped the Israelis, is Mostafa Dayarani, who was in charge of guarding the Israeli officer, Ron Arad, whose airplane was downed in Lebanon in 1986. At that time, Mostafa Dayarani was the head of the intelligence organization of the Amal Shiite group, but later left the Amal and joined the Hizballah, which paid him more money.

There has been no news of the fate of the other two Israelis, Joseph [Fenik] and [Rahamim al-Sheykh], as well as three other Israeli soldiers who disappeared in 1982. The three Israelis missing in 1982 disappeared during the attack of the al-Sa'eqa group, which is supported by Syria. At least one Arab radio station has referred to them as being alive.

In 1985, the Israeli government released from its prisons 1,100 Palestinians in exchange for the release of three Israeli soldiers.

*Oil Embargo Lifted Following Hostage's Release

90AS0068C London KEYHAN in Persian
10 May 90 pp 1-2

[Text] Following the release of Frank Reed, the 57-year-old American hostage who was freed on Monday, 31 April after 44 months of captivity in Beirut, the U.S. government, as a sign of good will towards the regime of the Islamic Republic, lifted the embargo on the purchase of oil from Iran by the large American oil companies. President Bush, issuing the necessary instructions in this regard, sent an official letter of thanks for the cooperation of the Islamic Republic in the release of the American hostages to Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran last Thursday. This letter was relayed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic through the Swiss Embassy in Tehran, which protects the interest of the United States in Iran.

An informed source in Washington told the KEYHAN (London) representative that the agreement of President Bush for the purchase of Iranian oil will not be confined to the repayment of the 5 billion dollar debt of Iran to the large oil companies, but will extend beyond that stage.

The large American companies of Esso, Exxon, and Mobil say that Iran owes them 5 billion dollars, and so far the U.S. government has not allowed them to receive oil from the Islamic Republic for the amount they are owed.

The SUNDAY TIMES announced on Sunday, 6 May, that President Bush has permitted the oil companies to purchase oil from Iran only to collect the debt, but now it becomes clear that the American agreement goes beyond the settling of past accounts.

The Hague Agreements

Although the preparations for the financial agreement which took place last week in the Hague between the representatives of the United States and the regime of the Islamic Republic had been prepared a long time ago, political observers and the Western press consider the agreement to settle the accounts against Iran involving the financial claims of 2,300 small private American companies as a reward for the release of the two American hostages.

According to an agreement signed last week between Abraham Sofaer, legal attorney for the U.S. State Department and the representative of that country in the financial negotiations in the Hague, and Gudarz Eftekhar-Jahromi, the Islamic Republic regime's representative in the above-mentioned court, 2,300 financial claims against Iran by small private companies, whose claims are less than $250,000 each, are to be resolved out of court, and the Islamic Republic is to pay the amount of $100 million for these debts to the U.S. government.

According to informed sources, if these financial claims were to be settled in the Hague court within the framework of official negotiations, the regime of the Islamic Republic would have to pay at least $800 million to the American creditors in addition to paying court costs for nearly 10 more years, because to resolve so many financial claims would have taken at least 10 years.

*Demonstrations Against Rafsanjani, U.S. Ties

90AS0068A London KEYHAN in Persian
10 May 90 pp 1, 3-4

[Text] A second demonstration against the reconciliation of the Islamic Republic and the U.S. government was held this Sunday [6 May] in Tehran. In this demonstration, Hezbollahi men and women shouted slogans against the supporters of relations with the United States.

The first demonstration against the cooperation of Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the release of the American hostages was spurred on by an article published on Tuesday, 4 Ordibehesht [24 April], in ETTELA'AT by 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, the legal and parliamentary deputy of the president of the Islamic Republic. This demonstration took place at the invitation of the Islamic student society of Tehran University.

Before the street demonstration, KEYHAN newspaper in Tehran had published a strong editorial against 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, who had suggested in his article that in order to protect the interests of the regime of the Islamic Republic, direct negotiations must take place with the United States. In a political analysis published in the same issue of KEYHAN in Tehran, 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi had called all those who hold this idea of establishing closer relations with the United States, who advocate face-to-face negotiations with the United States, agents of the United States and traitors to the goals of the revolution and the "path of Imam Khomeyni."

Change of Direction by Khamene'i and Rafsanjani

Following the escalation of the wave of open opposition of the group affiliated with 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic, in an opportunistic posture, immediately increased his distance with those supporting compromise with the United States and in a speech on Wednesday, 2 May, strongly condemned any sort of negotiation and compromise with the United States and called those who believe in negotiations with the United States "simple-minded individuals who are awed by the United States."

Khamene'i said: "It is not so that if the United States is against a country that country cannot breathe in the world. Does the world belong to the United States? How could such a roughneck, corrupt oppressor claim to own the world? Friendship with it will bring us misfortune and shame."

According to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Khamene'i, who before any essential action is always consulted by the president of the Islamic Republic, denied his knowledge of any negotiations with the United States and said:

"It is simple-mindedness for some to say that we should go to the negotiation table with an oppressive regime that does not believe in humane principles and international law. I oppose negotiating with the United States, and the government of the Islamic Republic would not do so without my permission, and the government does not support such an action."

Also, in order to console 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, vice president of the Islamic Republic, who was the target of insults and accusations by others, Khamene'i said:

I recommend to writers, experts, and speakers not to be disturbed. When we have something logical to say, we must not be worried when someone else has something to say. Any statement, if it is not in our best interests, deserves a response. We should not forget the rules of etiquette.

Statements of Hashemi-Rafsanjani

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also, in order not to be left behind in the caravan of insulting the United States, took an anti-American stance one day after Khamene'i and claimed in a speech to the exemplary teachers of the country:

"Iran does not want relations with the United States. The severance of relations with the United States is what the people of Iran demand. We do not want to speak to the United States."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani rejected the interpretation of the Western media that if the Islamic Republic has helped in the release of the American hostages, it is because of the financial and technical needs of the Islamic Republic and its interest in improving relations with the United States and said: "One of the examples of the current issues in the matter of the hostage taking is the false interpretation of the U.S. media. They have come up with the analysis that Iran's efforts towards the release of the hostages are based on Tehran's need for the United States and the West. This interpretation by the media is incorrect. In the Five-Year Plan for the economic, social, and cultural development of the Islamic Republic, we have so many varied projects that we will have to open them up for bidding, and we shall not award contracts out of need. The Iranian nation will not give in to the United States. A nation that has offered so many martyrs and captives to the revolution is not prepared to ignore its goals for a machine."

Despite his ignoring the United States, Hashemi-Rafsanjani avoided any explicit denial or condemnation of negotiations and contact with the United States.

Political observers of Iran believe that Hashemi-Rafsanjani intends every time to make a general change of direction in the area of political contact and cooperation with countries that do not have good relations with the Islamic Republic. First, by raising an issue by one of his colleagues and aids, he tests the opposition, and as soon as he is faced with a strong reaction and opposition, he pulls himself out of the quarrel and blames it all on the person who has verbalized Hashemi-Rafsanjani's intent.

Prior to 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's deputy, this calamity fell on Larijani, the advisor to the

Islamic minister of foreign affairs, and Raja'i-Khorasani, the head of the foreign affairs committee of the Majles.

Also, the office of the Islamic president issued a communique announcing that the views of 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani about the necessity for direct talks with the United States was a personal opinion and is not considered the official position of the regime.

Continuation of Opposition

Although apparently the issue should have ended with the explicit statements and denials of Khamene'i and the statements of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the group of opponents of Hashemi-Rafsanjani engaged in demonstrations again on Sunday, which was interpreted in the Western press as the retreat of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's group.

Mehdi Karrubi, the speaker of the Majles, who was also in the Mohtashemi group, in a speech on Sunday strongly attacked the United States and claimed that the regime of the Islamic Republic does not intend by any means to get closer to the United States, and the anger of the people of Iran will continue against the United States.

The Position of the U.S. Government

President Bush, whose official and thankful letter to Hashemi-Rafsanjani has caused criticism, is apparently continuing his position of avoiding any dealings with the regime of the Islamic Republic and the hostage takers for the release of the American hostages.

Last Wednesday, while emphasizing that until the Islamic Republic has freed all the Western hostages, the United States will not establish relations with the Islamic Republic, he instructed the embargo on the purchase of oil from Iran by oil companies to be lifted and in a speech on Thursday night in Washington, promised to make an effort to get information concerning the three Iranian hostages who disappeared in Beirut in 1982.

President Bush also promised that in addition to this, "there are other things that he can do for the Islamic Republic."

Apparent Requests of the Islamic Republic

What the Islamic Republic apparently is pursuing includes:

- The release of the frozen assets of Iran in the United States.
- The release of Sheykh 'Ubayd and 400 Lebanese and Palestinian Shiites in Israel.
- The release of 17 terrorists jailed in Kuwait.
- Information on the fate of four Iranians kidnapped in Beirut in 1982.

However, according to political observers, one of the major demands of the regime of the Islamic Republic is that the United States remove the obstacles that exist for the Islamic Republic to have access to the banking funds and foreign loans and, moreover, to provide Iran with the technical resources to rebuild in order for the regime to be able to save itself from the deadlock it is in.

The apparent request of the Islamic Republic to the United States was made most recently by 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a press conference in Helsinki last Thursday. He asked the United States to show its good will by responding positively to the demands of the Islamic Republic in exchange for the release of the two American hostages.

The Condition of the Iranian Hostages in Lebanon

It is still unclear what has happened to the four Iranians who were kidnapped by the Phalange forces in July 1982 during the confusion of Israel's attack on Lebanon.

After eight years without news, last week the television station affiliated with the forces of General Michel 'Awn announced in Beirut that three of the four Iranians are being held by the forces of Dr. Samir Ja'ja', the commander of the Phalange forces, but one of them had been shot and killed while trying to escape.

The television station affiliated with Michel 'Awn claimed that the three were being kept in al-Laqluq Mountain, in the northeastern part of the Christian sector of Beirut.

The four Iranians who disappeared in July 1982 are:

- Mohsen Musavi, 34 years old, the former attache of the Islamic Republic in Beirut.
- Ahmad Motovaselian, 38 years old, diplomat of the Islamic Republic at its embassy.
- Kazem Akhavan, 32 years old, photographer for IRNA.
- Mohammad Taqi Rastegar-Moqaddam, 33 years old, driver of the embassy of the Islamic Republic in Beirut.

The four disappeared after their car was stopped at an inspection station set up by the Christian forces, and no one has received word of them since then.

The Fate of the Rest of the Hostages

Hoseyn Musavi, one of the leaders of Hezbollah, announced on Tuesday, 8 May, that considering the negative reaction of the United States to the demands of the Hezbollah and the Islamic Republic, there is no longer any hope that any of the 15 remaining Western hostages in Beirut will gain their freedom this year.

Four days earlier, the TEHRAN TIMES had expressed despair at the continuation of the trend of the release of Western hostages.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also said in reaction to the protests that were made in Tehran concerning relations with the United States:

"On the one hand, they thanked Iran and Syria for their efforts to release the hostages, and on the other hand, they started a sinister propaganda movement that until Iran frees all the hostages, they will not normalize relations. Who are you to say that Iran wants to have relations with you?"

On the opposite front, the government of Israel, which also has some effect on the release of the hostages, announced that the regime of the Islamic Republic and the Shiite hostage-takers must give up the idea that the 400 Lebanese Shiite and Palestinian prisoners in Israel will be released without the release of the six military and civilian Israeli prisoners in Lebanon, who are held by the Hezbollah and Syrian forces.

And finally, on Monday, 7 May, another factor was added to the issue of the hostages. Radio Israel, quoting Major Antoine Lahad, the commander of the southern army of Lebanon, which is supported by Israel, said that until the Lebanese release the prisoners of that army, the release of the Shiite prisoners will not be possible.

*Demonstrations Against Velayati Reported 10 May

90AS0068B London KEYHAN in Persian
10 May 90 p 1

[Text] 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his accompanying delegation, having traveled to Helsinki on Thursday, 3 May, for an official three-day visit and talks on economic and technical topics in Finland, were confronted with widespread demonstrations by angry Iranians calling them criminals, murderers, and torturers.

According to KEYHAN's Helsinki correspondent, hundreds of Iranians who had come from faraway cities to Helsinki engaged in widespread demonstrations against the inhumane behavior of the Islamic Republic and the rampant torture, executions, and illegal trials in Iran. Crowds with placards exposing and condemning the inhumane behavior of the regime went to greet Velayati and his companions.

Helsinki television showed the demonstrations of the Iranians against Velayati and the regime of the Islamic Republic several times in its programs, and its reporter interviewed Iranians who took part in the demonstrations against Velayati and spoke about the violent behavior of the Islamic Republic with Iranians inside the country.

According to KEYHAN's (London) reporter, this was the first time that such widespread demonstrations were held against a foreign guest in Helsinki, and the people of Finland, who were only slightly aware of the inhumane nature of the regime of the Islamic Republic, became somewhat more aware of the situation inside Iran in the course of these demonstrations.

Our KEYHAN correspondent from Helsinki reports that due to the warm weather (26 degrees) on the day Velayati arrived in Helsinki, the hosts of the Iranian delegation, mostly women, moved alongside the Islamic members of the delegation in very revealing clothes, and no protest was made of this action by the Hezbollah people accompanying Velayati.

We should point out that the government of Finland, because of the disrespect for human rights of the regime of the Islamic Republic in addition to the continuation of the threats against the life of Salman Rushdie and the regime's refusal to revoke the decree for his killing, avoided extending any favorable promise of increased cooperation. This point was made explicitly by the president of Finland.

*Files on Financial Misuse Reportedly 'Lost'

90AS0068H London KEYHAN in Persian
10 May 90 p 1

[Text] In an editorial entitled "A Word with the Honorable Chiefs of the Three Branches" in the 26 April issue of RESALAT, certain controversial news issues were raised involving many of the officials of the Islamic regime in the widespread corruption of the regime.

In this editorial, Ahmad Tavakkoli, addressing Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi, the head of the judicial branch, writes that the people are discontent when officials, rather than carrying out their duty and fighting corruption and violation, only speak of the "necessity of carrying out their duty" and are suspicious because the news of the arrests and trials of the violators and corrupters is kept secret from the people.

In this editorial, he then objects to the secrecy of the court sessions on the misuse case of the Vedad company and condemns the excuses given for preventing the exposure of the details of such misuse. In this connection, he states:

"This is the secret work of the court examining the misuse case of the Vedad company. It has been said that the reason was that some of the honorable officials were summoned to the court as witnesses."

The writer of the editorial then addresses the head of the judicial branch and adds:

"It is said that a large number of files, including many files concerning financial misuse prior to your administration, have been lost. Is this true? If it is true, what steps have you taken to pursue those who were responsible for the files? The people must know whose files were lost and who, and for what purpose, failed to protect them."

Then, addressing Sheykh Mehdi Karrubi, the speaker of the Majles, he raises the issue of misuse and the operation of some of the seemingly nonprofit revolutionary foundations and asks: "Your pursuit and publication of reports in the judicial committee of the Majles concerning the foundations established after the revolution aids the fight against the leech-natured ones. You know that the initial report of the committee concerning the operations of several seemingly nonprofit organizations has not been published since 17/10/66 [7 January 1988], when it was announced in the Majles that it was ready. Why shouldn't the people be informed of the investigations of the Majles in this regard?"

He then refers to the payment of additional money to the representatives of the Majles and writes:

"Some of the financial actions of the Majles are questionable. For example, his honor, Mr. Bayat, the deputy speaker of the Majles, paid some of the representatives 1 million rials apiece during Unity Week, and payments of between 1 to 5 million rials were made to a number of representatives before the New Year. What is the basis of such payments and what were they made for? What was the source; how were these monies spent; and how are the expenditures controlled?"

Maldives

'Powerful' Minister Dropped in Cabinet Reshuffle

BK3005142690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1338 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Colombo, May 30 (AFP)—A powerful minister was dropped Wednesday [30 May] in a major Cabinet reshuffle and his whereabouts after his sudden departure from the Maldives are still unknown, officials in the capital Male said. A close aide to President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom said on the telephone from Male that Minister of State for Defence and National Security Ilyas Ibrahim was dropped during a Cabinet reshuffle. "He has also been removed from all government posts he headed," the aide added.

The unexpected announcement was also broadcast by the State Voice of Maldives radio station and took most Maldivians by surprise, journalists reached by telephone in Male said. Mr. Ibrahim, who left the Maldives for an unknown destination Tuesday [29 May], is Mr. Gayoom's brother-in-law and was also minister of trade and industries and the managing director of the State Trading Organisation (STO), the largest commercial enterprise in the Muslim archipelago. A spokesperson for the President's Office in Male confirmed Mr. Ibrahim "is not in the country," adding she did not know why he left.

Officials in Colombo confirmed that a Maldivian flight had arrived at Katunayake International Airport at 1430 GMT (9.00 p.m. local time) Tuesday, but said they were not aware who the passengers were. The aircraft is reported to have left without the passengers some three hours later.

There are no regular passenger flights from Male to Colombo by Maldivian aircraft. Maldivians travel to Colombo mainly on Sri Lanka's national carrier, Air Lanka.

A government official said Mr. Ibrahim may be heading for London with his wife Amal Ali while a minister scoffed at rumours that Mr. Ibrahim had fled with millions of dollars. "The money rumours are absolutely wrong," the minister, who did not want to be named, said.

A journalist said Mr. Ibrahim may have left because of pressure building up against him in an alleged corruption scandal at the STO.

The Cabinet changes also came amid rumours of a military coup attempt. Maldivian High Commissioner or Ambassador in Colombo Ahmed Abdulla who was not available for confirmation of the Cabinet changes, earlier quashed the coup attempt rumours and said Mr. Gayoom was "still in charge and running the country."

Mr. Gayoom survived a bloody coup attempt led by a Maldivian dissident in November 1988.

Residents in Male reported calm after the news broke about Mr. Ibrahim's hasty departure and the subsequent Cabinet changes.

Opponents of Mr. Gayoom's administration have said in the past that Mr. Ibrahim, a known hardliner, would take power with the help of the National Security Service (NSS), the combined armed forces and police, which he controls.

Mr. Gayoom who is also commander-in chief of the NSS, did not name a replacement for Mr. Ibrahim in the Defence Ministry, officials said. But Ahmed Mujuthaba, who was tourism minister, was appointed minister of trade and industries and also managing director of STO.

Officials also said that five other changes were made from the previous Cabinet. Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture Abdulla Jameel was made minister of atolls administration while the former Atolls Minister Abdulla Hameed was named minister of education. The former Minister of Education Mohamed Zahir Hussain was named minister without portfolio, while the Deputy Minister of the Environment Ismael Shafeeu was appointed minister of tourism. Minister of Transport and Shipping Abbas Ibrahim was appointed minister of fisheries and agriculture.

Officials said there had been general disapproval by ministers of Mr. Ibrahim's conduct. A new transport minister was not named. They said investigations were underway into allegations of corruption against Mr. Ibrahim, reportedly the most powerful and richest man in the Indian Ocean island republic located some 660 kilometers (about 400 miles) southwest of Sri Lanka.

Mr. Ibrahim's dismissal comes a week after Male closed the anti-government fortnightly news magazine "SANGU" (The Conchshell) saying it had misused "the freedom of expression" by encouraging "unlawful acts which might result in civilian harm." But Maldivians clamouring for more political reforms said the SANGU, a bitter critic of Mr. Ibrahim, was the vanguard of a pro-democracy movement in the Muslim archipelago of 1,190 islands which has no political parties.

Officials said the Special Citizens Majlis (Special Parliament) also met Wednesday but did not discuss Mr. Ibrahim's departure. "The members only discussed proposed changes to the Constitution," a senior official said. The special parliament which is different from the Citizens Majlis (National Parliament) has powers to amend the Constitution.

"President Gayoom is expected to announce more reforms in the near future," a close presidential aide said. Mr. Gayoom, who has been twice reelected since becoming president in 1978, told parliament in February the Maldivian people wanted a new era of democracy and promised to introduce legislation to cut presidential powers.

Communique: Minister 'Sacked' for Leaving Country

BK3105091490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0846 GMT 31 May 90

[Text] Colombo, May 31 (AFP)—A powerful minister, facing a corruption probe, was sacked because he had left the country without informing president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, an official communique issued in the capital Male said. The communique, a copy of which was made available here, said Minister of state for Defence and National security Ilyas Ibrahim had left the country without Mr. Gayoom's permission.

"The president saw Ilyas's conduct as unacceptable and inappropriate for a minister when a matter was being investigated regarding an office for which he held ultimate responsibility," the communique said.

Informed sources said Mr. Gayoom saw his brother-in-law Tuesday [29 May] and told him he was to be dismissed in a cabinet reshuffle Wednesday because of a probe into alleged corruption in the State Trading Organisation [STO] which he also headed. Mr. Ibrahim had told Mr. Gayoom he was ready to face questioning on the allegations and would send in his resignation in due course, the sources said.

Mr. Ibrahim, who is believed to have flown Tuesday to London via Colombo, ostensibly to seek medical treatment, was also Minister of Trade and Industry. Mr. Gayoom did not name a replacement for Mr. Ibrahim in the Defence Ministry, officials said when contacted by telephone.

Mr. Ibrahim was to have appeared Wednesday before a presidential commission inquiring into embezzlement by STO officials in charge of a fisheries project. Reports say the STO deputy director and another senior official have been placed under house arrest while police have questioned several people including immigration officials at Male airport following Mr. Ibrahim's departure.

Mr. Gayoom has been under pressure since the coup attempt to introduce political reforms while Mr. Ibrahim was well know for his hardline stance.

Residents contacted by telephone in Male said Mr. Ibrahim's unexpected exit from the political scene was the major topic of conversation in the country. "Some restaurants were even distributing free tea," one said Thursday in apparent jubilation over the removal of Mr. Ibrahim.

Mr. Gayoom, a moderate Moslem leader, has led the Indian Ocean republic for the past 12 years and has promised gradual reforms but critics want the process speeded up.

Nepal

Constitutional Recommendation Commission Formed

BK3005165490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1646 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 30 (AFP)—Nepal's King Birendra has formed a nine-member Constitutional Recommendation Commission (CRC) headed by a senior Supreme Court justice, state radio said late Wednesday [30 May]. The group's chairman will be Senior Supreme Court Justice Biswanath Upadhyaya, the broadcast said.

"The king has constituted the CRC on the recommendation of the prime minister of the coalition government, Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai," the radio said quoting a communique issued by the Principal Royal Press Secretariat. The statement said "the commission will, after consultations with various parties and the people representing different classes of the society, prepare a draft constitution and submit its recommendations to the king within three months." It said the aim was the "strengthening of constitutional monarchy and multi-party democracy in the country."

Mr. Upadhyaya was to have headed a constitutional commission unilaterally formed by the king on May 11, but it was dissolved amid objections by Mr. Bhattarai, his left-wing coalition government partners and individual politicians over the way it was formed. He resigned May 15, paving the way for the king to dissolve the commission and ask Mr. Bhattarai and his Cabinet to propose new appointees.

The radio said King Birendra had called on the interim government to consult with all political parties as well as a broad spectrum of Nepalese citizenry on the commission's composition, and that Mr. Bhattarai made his recommendations after discussion with the Council of Ministers.

Commission Appointees Listed

BK3005170090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1649 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 30 (AFP)—The following persons were named by Nepal's King Birendra to a nine-member Constitutional Recommendation Commission, official State Radio said Wednesday [30 May]:
Biswanath Upadhyaya, justice of the Supreme Court, chairman.
Pradhumna Raj Bhandari, former chairman of the Public Services Commission.
Ramananda Prasad Singh, former attorney general.
Laxman Raj Aryal, senior advocate of the Supreme Court.
Mukunda Prasad Regmi, member of Nepali Congress and senior lawyer of the Supreme Court.
Daman Dhungana, Nepali Congress youth leader and senior advocate of the Supreme Court.
Nirmal Lama, senior leader of Nepali Communist Party (Marxist and Leninist).
Bharat Mohan Adhikari, senior leader of Nepal Communist Party (Marxist), and

Madhav Kumar Nepal, leader of the Nepal Communist Party representing the United Leftist Front.

The United Leftist Front, an alliance of seven factions in the Nepal Communist Party, is a partner in the coalition government of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai.

King Birendra, at the recommendation of Mr. Upadhyaya, also named Surya Nath Upadhyaya (no relation) as the commission's administrative secretary.

Pakistan

Violence Continues in Sindh; Death Toll Rises

Army Chief Visits Affected Areas

BK2905155090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Chief of Army Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg has emphasized to all Army men to steadfastly and resolutely discharge their duties in connection with the maintenance of law and order by helping the law-abiding citizens to bring the situation in Hyderabad back to normal. He was addressing the Army officers in Hyderabad today.

Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg, who flew to Hyderabad from Karachi, attended a lengthy briefing on the law and order situation in the city. Corps Commander Lieutenant General Asif Nawaz and other high military officers were also present. The Army chief was told about indiscriminate shooting, looting, and killing of people in various parts of the city. Expressing his grief and regret at the recent incidents in the city, Gen. Aslam Beg said that many innocent people have lost their lives, and property has been damaged. He appealed to patriotic citizens to contribute toward ending the insecurity and helplessness.

Later, Gen. Beg visited the affected areas of the city where the Army is deployed to maintain law and order.

The chief of army staff also attended a professional briefing at Formation Headquarters, and expressed satisfaction at the state of alertness and logistics regarding the dispatching of troops to the war front in case of a threat.

16 Killed; Water Supply Disrupted

BK3005144990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Sixteen more people were killed in violent incidents in Karachi today. In the curfew-bound areas of Central District and East District, curfew was relaxed for two hours from 1500 to 1700 this afternoon, while the curfew relaxation has been withdrawn in the West District area in view of the tense situation prevailing there. Meanwhile, the water supply from the Hub Dam to Karachi through Hub Canal has been disrupted following a 120- to 150-feet wide rupture in the canal last night. Heavy machines and concerned personnel have been rushed to the site of the accident and every effort is being made to plug it.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has directed the Sindh government to set up a high-powered action committee on law and order to advise the government on the situation in the province. The committee will consist of representatives of all political parties in the province. Talking to a delegation of political leaders in Hyderabad today, the prime minister emphasized that people want peace and they should all work for peace and forget politics.

Karachi Law, Order Situation Reviewed

BK3105030390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 May 90

[Text] At a meeting in Karachi yesterday evening, the law and order situation in the division was reviewed. The meeting was chaired by the commissioner. It was attended among others, by the inspector general of police, representatives of the law enforcement agencies, and the commander of the Mehran Rangers. The meeting decided to focus on the steps taken against snipers, to increase patrols by police, rangers, and other law enforcement agencies and also to set up posts. It also decided to increase the number of posts in sensitive areas.

According to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, the Hyderabad local administration has appealed to the national and provincial assembly members and the affected families from (Pakka Salam) and other parts of the city to meet the prime minister if they have any grievances. According to the news agency, these people did not meet the prime minister as per the directives of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM]. The news agency has further reported that a television team, which went to Bhitai hospital to get an eyewitness account of the dead and the injured, was also alleged to have been returned by the MQM. It was reported that the 16 armed persons, who are on guard at the hospital, did not permit anybody to enter the hospital.

31 More Reported Killed

BK3105050590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 31 May 90

[Text] In Pakistan, another 31 people were killed and about 60 others injured as the violence continued unabated in Karachi for the fourth consecutive day yesterday. The death toll in the city has crossed more than 120 raising the number of killed in both Hyderabad and Karachi over the past week to over 250. In Karachi, armed groups, who went around shooting and killing people at random, also set fire to several houses in the New Karachi area. Several shops in the north Nizamabad and Malir areas were looted and set ablaze.

AIR [All India Radio] Islamabad correspondent, Suresh Chopra, reports that 100 Sindhi families have abandoned their homes in Karachi and moved out of the city. Reports say Sindhi families were the main target of the unknown gunmen yesterday. Water supply was also reduced to half in the area, following a breach in the Hab dam, the main source of Karachi's water supply. A riot broke out in the Karachi central jail, following a clash between the supporters of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement and the Students Federation. Four persons were reportedly killed and about a dozen students injured in the incident.

Paper Cautions Bhutto Over Sindh Events

BK2905004490 Lahore THE NATION in English 28 May 90 p 2

[By Brigadier A.R. Siddiqui, retired]

[Text] Will Benazir's Pakistan go down in history as a pledge unredeemed and a promise unfulfilled? Are these the last days of democracy in Pakistan to be followed by, Allah alone knows what—the long nights of anarchy or an endless stretch of authoritarianism?

The questions, their unmistakable rhetorical touch notwithstanding, are real enough in view of the prevailing environment of mounting chaos and rampant lawlessness; of dark despair unrelieved by a ray of hope.

Opening on the vibrant note of electoral ecstasy and democratic euphoria, the Benazir period seems drifting irresistably into a cacophony of ethnic strife, bazaar shooot-outs, kidnappings, dacoities [thefts], highway stick-ups at the level of every day existence and brazen horse-trading and manipulations through the corridors of power.

Writes Mehnaz Isphani, Director of Research at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) in Washington D.C. a Pakistani expatriate: "Karachi is being transformed into an impoverished and anarchic battle zone.

"Despite Bhutto's insistance that all Sindhi's problems have resulted from Zia's autocratic policies, by late 1989 it was clear that return to democratic politics, had not resolved the provinces crises.

"The PPP's [Pakistan People's Party] dilemma is that while it must mark for rural Sindh (which speaks through powerful leaders in the PPP hierarchy) it must also act as a national party. Strapping it between the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] and the Sindhi extremist."

While Karachi and Hyderabad remain the two blinding flash pints, practically the whole of the province is seething with civic violence and strife. There has been bad news from all over—Hala, Sukkur, Nawab Shah, Larkana and so on. The other day the Pesh Imam [priest] of a Sukkur mosque, together with two other was killed in cold blood. A bus ride between Karachi and the interior might as well have been a journey through a dark jungle infested with man eaters. Passengers along superhighway are ethnically and linguistically identified, offloaded relieved of their valuables if lucky, manhandled and shot, if not so lucky.

I had already written up my Observer's column for the next week when I decided to hold it over until the week after there being no time bar to it. It looked so out of place in the situation developing around us and farther afield in the Punjab.

One is simply left wondering about the very purpose of one's existence, when life, honour and property are so perilously and constantly exposed to sudden attacks of violence, abduction, arson and daring robberies in broad daylight often in full view of the law-enforcing agencies.

The Prime Minister is out of the country on her peace odyssey (She would have been back home by the time these lines appear). She is shown on the TV evening after evening, immaculately dressed in dazzling white, bright green and shocking pink, a portrait of grace and beauty (only recently she was rated among 50 most beautiful people of the world!) in conference with various heads of the state and the government, assiduously canvassing support for the Kashmiris' right of self-determination. Going by the headlines and the news stories in the national media, the prime-ministerial voyage might have been blessed by the fair winds of success achieved in convincing the foreign leaders of the truth and justice of the Kashmir case.

More than one foreign leader offered to act as mediator to help resolve the chronic issues turned dangerously acute for the umpteenth and perhaps for the last time.

The mediation offer could have ensued as much from absolute sincerity of the maker as from his own urge to acquiring an international role for his own country and status for himself: these should also act, as ballast to his own legitimacy at home.

The Prime Minister's jaunt had, by no means, been a joy ride. Covering as many as eight countries as far apart as Tunis and North Yemen within a week, must have been enormous strain unrelieved by a good night's rest. Besides exacting diplomatic exegeses at the highest level confrontations with the world media could not but have acted as a stiff test of physical and mental endurance.

To what end, however, one might only wonder.

Between external support for Kashmir and internal peace and harmony, which is more important to have the Kashmiris squarely and unrepentently on our side?

How would the pro-Pakistan Kashmiri Muslims, be reacting to the prevailing anarchy and confusion in the country they had been fondly dreaming of andare now bravely struggling to throwing in their lot with?

Side by side with the daily reports about the Kashmiris armed struggle against India's army backed rule, appear the news of bomb-blasts and rocket attacks in our cities.

So many "martyred" in Kashmir, so many "killed" in Karachi, Hyderabad, Lahore, etc. The gates of heaven are wider for the Kashmiri "martyr" than for the poor Pakistani pedestrian caught unawares in a bazzar crossfire and killed.

Much against our own wishes, we must make an objective study of the negative impact of our own situation on the mind of our own situation on the mind of the Kashmiris—activitist and non-activist. To my mind (and I wish I were wrong) through May, we have, in terms of internal stability and the strength that stems from it alone, lost most more than gained ground in our Kashmir campaign. For us here in Sindh, everyday has been the May-Day in the airline's pilot's parlance.

The COP [Combined Opposition Parties] declares the government in Sindh has failed wholly—the Punjab Chief Minister blames—the Centre and its intelligence agencies for the Bhati Gate bomb blast.

Mian Ehsanul Haq Piracha [minister of state for finance] goes to the Supreme Court in appeal against the Punjab High Court might not be have resigned first and then sought to redress from the Supreme Court.

There is open talk of martial law; if a 'contingency plan' to declare a state of emergency in Sindh "sooner than one might imagine."

When people talk of martial law and state of emergency as "necessary evils" nor all is well with the Kingdom of Denmark. Not all is well with democracy and its future.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto must take note of the scarlet writing on the wall.

Foreign policy shorn of a stable domestic base would be more of a rhetorical exercise without much substance: short of nashtind/guftand/barkhastand (sit, talk and disperse) affair!

There are two front-page advertisements in front of me. One carries on top, photographs (from left to right) of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Quaid-a-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and the Prime Minister. Below on the right hand corner is the picture of a smiling, younger-looking Senior Minister, Begum Nursrat Bhutto. The copy, a campaign ad connected with A.K. elections, is bordered by the words Azadi [freedom], Azadi, Azadi—each preceded by an arrowhead—echoes from the prime minister's resounding Muzaffarabad speech sometime ago.

The ad might be a message of hope, a source of inspiration. Yet another (also a party) ad, however, presents a study in reverse. It might have been a portrait in the black, abysmally depressing and dismal. Under the main heading:

"Our country. Our Pakistan."

Faces, a grave crisis it goes on to enmnerate the problems the country faces, e.g. soaring prices, fear, lawlessness, grinding uncertainty; a weapon glut; reign of terror, loss of honour; economic disparities—this, that and the other—ad infinitum. At the end, the ad daringly asks: Is it going to be our lot for ever?

"No, no never" it goes on to answer urging people to move and grab the hand of tyrant, and bring those spreading "shamelessness" to book. And so on.

Court Unseats Azad Kashmir Premier From Assembly

BK2905120390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] The Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] Supreme Court has rejected the appeals of AJK prime minister, Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan, and has unseated him from [the constituency] LA-34 Jammu and other seats. In its unanimous ruling the Supreme Court says the AJK chief election commissioner and the returning officer had illegally accepted his nomination papers and, thus, they are rejected.

Yaqub Khan Apprises Committee of Foreign Policy

BK2705160890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 May 90

[Text] In Islamabad today, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan apprised the Senate standing committee of the country's foreign policy with special reference to the current uprising in occupied Kashmir. The committee was also apprised of Pakistan's efforts for a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue.

The foreign minister referred to the UN Secretary General's statement saying that records of the UN resolution on the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people are still intact and are still effective and practical. He rejected the Indian contention that UN resolutions have become ineffective after the Simla agreement and that they have no standing now. He said Simla agreement also admits that the Kashmir issue is an issue of dispute and it should be solved by peaceful means. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said the (?four) human rights organizations in India, comprising the high court judges, have expressed their indignation over Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir and have taken serious note of the fact that Indian authorities have prohibited the entry of foreign journalists and philanthropic organizations to occupied areas.

The committee meeting was chaired by [name indistinct].

Sri Lanka

Maldives Coup Plotters Will 'Not Go Free'

BK3105085890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0831 GMT 31 May 90

[Text] Colombo, May 31 (AFP)—Sixty-eight Sri Lankan mercenaries jailed in the Maldives for their part in a 1988 coup would not go free if the government agreed to their return here, a senior official said Thursday [31 May]. Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne was commenting on reports that Colombo was considering the return of the 68, members of the Peoples Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) who were jailed by a Maldivian court for their part in the failed November 1988 coup.

Mr. Wijeratne said both the Maldives Government and PLOTE, a former Tamil rebel group, had asked Colombo to take back the prisoners, adding: "but they (the coup plotters) are not going to come here and go scot-free" if they return. "They must pay for their sins, for tarnishing Sri Lanka's name," Mr. Wijeratne told a weekly press briefing.

Twelve of the Sri Lankans were sentenced to death along with four Maldivian nationals after Indian troops landed in the capital Male at President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom's request. The sentences were later commuted to life imprisonment. The remainder were jailed for 17 years to 38 years.

Thousands of Tamils Recruited Into Army

BK2405090690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0830 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Colombo, May 24 (AFP)—Thousands of young men from Sri Lanka's Tamil minority are being recruited to the Army to give the community its share of representation in the country's security force, a senior minister said Thursday [24 May]. Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne told a weekly press briefing in Parliament that the armed forces and the police have been told to take 12.5 per cent of Tamils from the north and east when recruiting new members.

"Already 7,000 Tamils have been processed by the Army for recruitment," Mr.Wijeratne said.

Mr. Wijeratne rejected a claim by the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) that Colombo was training members of rival Tamil parties in Army camps. "It is all nonsense," Mr. Wijeratne said, responding to allegations by LTTE theoretician Anton Balasingham who was quoted in Tamil newspapers as saying the government was providing military training to the rival Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF).

Mr. Wijeratne said the Tamils were Sri Lankan citizens and recruitment to the armed forces and police have to reflect an ethnic ratio.

"Irrespective of what militants are doing, we have to have a representative army of all ethnic groups," Mr. Wijeratne said. He added that "just because some Tamils may have been recruited" to the Army, they come under one army and not as different groups.

The EPRLF which heads a regional administration in the Tamil majority northeast, is violently opposed to the LTTE, which now virtually dominates the region after the pullout of Indian troops from the area two months ago.

Mr. Wijeratne also said the LTTE, which agreed to peace talks with Colombo a year ago, must accept the fact that there were seven Tamil groups seeking to achieve their own aspirations. He said the LTTE claim of being the sole representatives of Sri Lanka's Tamils "must be manifested through an election."

"The ballot is there for that. Then not only the north, the entire country will accept that (they are the sole representatives)," Mr. Wijeratne said.

The LTTE, which boycotted the regional elections won by the EPRLF, is opposed to Colombo's peace talks with the rival group which commenced last week, saying the discussions created suspicion in the minds of the people.

Mr. Wijeratne reiterated Colombo's stance that it was committed to resolving issues through consultations with all groups. "As a government it is not possible" to decline negotiations with others, Mr. Wijeratne said, adding that Colombo would have to tell the LTTE "to accept realities."